

THE JOURNAL

Friday, July 4, 2003

50 cents (tax included)

Arts Watercolor artist discovers her calling at age 88 [A8]

Sports El Cerrito High baseball player headed for San Diego State [C1]

Albany to make Target decision

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The city's reinvestment agency will decide whether a Target will be built on Eastshore Highway at a meeting Monday.

Target has been the subject of debate in recent weeks. City officials, the Albany Chamber of Commerce and some residents support the project, which would eliminate blight and generate hundreds of thousands of dollars in sales tax revenue.

Other residents are ambivalent about the project, questioning its effects on everything from traffic to the city's small-town character.

Others opposed the project. "This (project) will have a huge negative impact on the quality of living in Albany including problems with traffic and the ambience of that area of town," Albany resident Julie Lawrence wrote in a June 10 e-mail to the city. "There is a Target less than 10 minutes away in El Cerrito. I don't see the need for another one and I am appalled at the idea of Albany turning into a strip mall like El Cerrito Plaza ..."

"I think bringing Target to Albany is a great idea," Alexandra Hardie wrote in a June 9 e-mail. The Eastshore Highway is the perfect location for a Target store. I shop at Target and I could much rather be paying taxes for my town instead of nole or El Cerrito."

The Chamber of Commerce has said the store will help the city's small business district by generating sales tax revenue that will allow the city to continue providing services to the area without making cuts or raising taxes.

Target wants to build on a 2.4-acre parcel bordered by Padonices Creek, which sits in

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MEETING

The Albany Reinvestment Agency will consider approving a Target store for Eastshore Highway at its Monday, July 7 meeting. The agency will meet at the City Hall Council Chambers, 1000 San Pablo Ave., at 8 p.m. For information, call 510-528-5760.

FRONT PORCH FLAG



EL CERRITO native Craig Elman, shown with his dog Duke, displays an American flag on his front porch. He's not the only one being patriotic: El Cerrito, Albany and neighboring cities plan a full schedule of activities for today's Fourth of July celebration.

Bursting July 4 myths

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

Almost everything we think we know about July 4 and the American Revolution is wrong. For instance:

■ We're celebrating on the wrong day. John Adams, always said the big party should be on July 2, the day Congress adopted the resolution "that these colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states." They didn't sign the Declaration on July 4, either. John Hancock affixed his, uh, John Hancock on Aug. 2.

■ Jefferson was the first choice to write the Declaration. The early favorite was Ben Franklin, but John Adams vetoed him, saying, "He'll probably try to put a joke in somewhere."

The second choice was Adams, but he vetoed himself, too. As he explained to Jefferson,

"I am obnoxious and disliked, and you are not. Besides, you are 10 times better a writer than I am."

■ The Liberty Bell didn't ring to celebrate the Declaration of Independence. Yes, it was hanging in Philadelphia's State House at the time. But no one thought of ringing it. No one called it the Liberty Bell, either, until 1839, when the phrase appeared in an anti-slavery pamphlet.

■ Betsy Ross didn't make the first American flag. That story was made up by her grandson. After the war, Congress gave credit to a man named Samuel Hopkinson, but he didn't do it either.

The Stars and Stripes actually evolved from the British Union flag. And despite what they told you in grammar school, the red doesn't stand for bravery, the white for purity, etc.

See MYTHS, Page A8

FOURTH OF JULY EVENTS

All events listed below are for today, July 4.

ALBANY

The city's holiday celebration will take place on the north side of Memorial Park and in the amphitheater area of Albany High School, 603 Key Route Boulevard.

8 a.m. Pancake breakfast at the Albany Memorial Veterans Building, sponsored by the Albany Lions Club. The breakfast is followed by pony rides, a pie-throwing contest, a tennis tournament and a belly-dance performance until noon.

Noon A July 4 observance will be held between noon and 12:20 p.m. The ceremony will be followed by a pet show, a watermelon-eating contest, an aikido demonstration and family games. The pet show, food booths and a disc jockey will be at the high school.

The events are sponsored by the city. For information, call Mayor Jewel Okawachi at 510-527-5583.

See SCHEDULE, Page A8

Residents entitled to tax refunds

■ A watchdog group found that El Cerrito was continuing to collect on a transfer tax after a Supreme Court ruling struck it down

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The city continued to collect a real estate transfer tax for more than two years after the state Supreme Court struck it down, forcing officials here to offer refunds and fill a \$900,000 revenue gap in the midst of the state's fiscal crisis.

Members of a residents' group attacked officials for a lack of disclosure on the matter and equated the situation to stealing.

The dispute centers on a June 2001 Supreme Court ruling that general taxes collected by cities were an "ongoing violation" of state Proposition 62, which passed in 1988 and requires that a two-thirds majority of voters approve all tax increases.

The ruling affected about 100 municipalities, cutting off about \$130 million in projected revenue.

The California League of Cities said at the time. El Cerrito, which began collecting its real estate transfer tax in 1992, was one of them. City officials have declined comment on why they continued to collect the tax after the ruling.

"Personally I don't feel comfortable saying anything without checking with some legal counsel," said councilwoman Gina Brusatori.

The City Council introduced an ordinance last month to strike the tax and is expected to adopt the measure July 21. The city is offering refunds to taxpayers who apply within a year of paying the tax.

The move leaves the city with a budget hole of \$800,000 to \$900,000 for street maintenance. The transfer tax money was to provide 23 percent of the city's maintenance budget for 2003-04.

"I think it can potentially affect anything (in the city budget)," said Mayor Pro Tem Letitia Moore. "If we don't want to reduce funding to streets, then we're going to have to reduce our funding somewhere else. I honestly don't know what that decision would be."

Steve Magary, the coordinator for the Council watchdog group the El Cerrito Citizens' Alliance, said the real issue isn't the budget problems but rather why the city collected the tax after the court decision.

GETTING A REFUND

El Cerrito is offering refunds for property transfer taxes paid to the city within the last year. A claim form can be obtained at City Hall, at San Pablo and Manila avenues or call 510-215-4305 to receive it by mail.

The transfer tax is collected when a business or home is bought or sold. The tax is generally split between the buyer and seller. In El Cerrito, the tax is \$7 per \$1,000 of the cost of the property. For example, if a home sells for \$500,000, the transfer tax is \$3,500.

Claim forms should be mailed to or dropped off at City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 94530.

See TAXES, Page A7

Thrifting' class leads offerings for teenagers

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Earlier this week, Barb Finnin was busy teaching three teenage girls the rewards of taking old unwanted objects and turning them into something new. That included baking old vinyl records and molding them into bowls, creating a coaster out of an old compact disc and some sequins and turning an old game board into a table or bulletin board.

That's just the start. Reusing objects and the art of buying used items — known as "thrifting" — can become nothing short of an addiction for some, as Finnin was quick to point out.

The evidence: Books and magazines devoted to thrifting, and Finnin herself.

See CLS, Page A7



BARB FINNIN, right, hosts a thrifting class at Cafe Eclectica in Albany with students Megan Stimpson, 14, and Natalie Gaber, 14. They're learning how to use old magazines, compact discs and other thrift store finds to make picture frames, coasters, memory boxes and more.

Amateur operators ready to ham it up

■ Local radio operators regularly practice acting as a backup-up system, should official networks ever fail

By Anukene Warda
CORRESPONDENT

Here's the scenario: A fire has consumed Berkeley's telephone lines, cell phone waves are jammed and the fire department's communication system has gone up in smoke. Who can you count on?

Hams. During a 48-hour "field day" last weekend, amateur radio operators across the world — nicknamed hams for reasons long

forgotten — honed their crisis communication skills in an annual practice run.

Amid the web of radio transmitters was a modest antenna at Berkeley's Emergency Operations Center operated by NALCO, a group of amateur radio operators in Northern Alameda County.

Mayor Tom Bates declared June 23 to 29 Amateur Radio Week in honor of NALCO's vigilance since the early '80s. In case of an emergency, hams will scoop up their radios and head to the nearest fire station or emergency operations center. They will then assist the fire department as needed.

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Martin Snapp

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Historic Hornet tugs your heart

WAS LOVE at first sight. The moment I laid eyes on her, I knew she was the beautiful thing I'd ever

am not talking about a man; I'm talking about a ship. She's the World War II aircraft carrier USS Hornet, a beautifully restored museum docked at Sausalito, the old Alameda Naval Air Station. One look at the majestic ship and her bow, and I was instantly smitten. She looked like a World War II carrier ship. I half expected to see Henry Fonda, in his "Mr. Roberts" uniform, standing on the bridge.

Actually, the Hornet's commanding officer during the war was much more colorful than the fictional character. He was an admiral named Joseph J. "Pappy" Boyington, a Navy aviator, but everyone, down to the lowest seaman, called him "Pappy." No commander was more beloved.

There was nothing we didn't do for the Old Man. There was nothing he didn't do for us," said one of the "boys," as he called them, "MacDonald of Oakland. There are so many Jocko

es, I hardly know where to begin. Such as his habit of fighting battles in his polka-dot pajamas and fuzzy slippers, his Admiral's hat stuck only on his head.

Or the time a teenaged boy named Art Hardy accidentally knocked the admiral on his knees while opening a door. An officer grabbed the poor kid and started screaming in his face.

"The next thing I saw," Boyington recalled almost 50 years later, "was a gigantic hand as it came over me and placed it on the officer's shoulder. I saw Admiral Clark say, 'Go

back to your work station and let this boy alone! I was just doing in the wrong place!"

By the time a typhoon rolled off the forward deck, it was impossible to launch the normal way, off the Jocko simply turned the ship around and sailed backward at full speed, launching planes off the stern.

The glances on the other ships had finally lost his mar. "Admiral Clark is gone, but



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

many of his "boys" are still here. You can meet them today on the Hornet, as the ship hosts a day-long July 4 celebration.

Guys like Lee McCleary of Albany, an aviator who was shot down and drifted for two days in the constant company of sharks, who were following his leaky, bullet-riddled raft, until he was finally rescued.

And Ralph Weidling of Walnut Creek, who had three aircraft carriers sunk from under him.

And Jack Reed, the man who first sighted the Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway. And Doug Davis of Benicia, who dropped the first torpedo.

Needless to say, they have amazing stories to tell. Not only were they eye-witnesses to history, they were the guys who made it happen.

After the war, the Hornet went on to more fame as the ship that fished Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins out of the ocean following Apollo 11's historic first flight to the Moon.

Today, her flight and hangar decks are crammed with rare aircraft, from World War II Avengers and Korean War Skyhawks to Gulf War Tomcats, as well as artifacts of the space era, including a Mercury capsule and the quarantine trailer the early astronauts had to live in for a couple of weeks after they got back.

The Hornet is hallowed ground, sanctified by the memory of all those boys of the "Greatest Generation" who flew off her deck and never came back. Their stories — and the stories of the courageous crew who manned this great ship — are examples for us to imitate.

And, more importantly, for our children, the next "great" generation.

Happy Independence Day.

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or e-mail msnapp@cctimes.com.

County streamlines appointment system

As of July 1, Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) is re-evaluating every person who calls an appointment at its 12 health centers to enter a patient waiting number or be routed to a financial counselor for help applying for health coverage. The county's basic health care program will be available to many of those who do not qualify for programs such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families and the Contra Costa Health Plan.

"We are very clear that we want to close health centers and reduce services. We want to streamline revenue so we can keep people who live in Contra Costa County," said Dr. William Walker, director of CCHS. His department has already cut \$8.4 million from the 2003-04 budget to address the county's budget short-

fall. Walker noted that county funds only pay for about 15 percent of the CCHS budget.

"Public health agencies like ours are facing a crisis. We have to look for ways to increase our revenue," Walker said. "Across the state, we're losing millions of dollars because people using our systems don't complete their applications for available insurance. We need that revenue and this new system will ensure that we go after every dollar by helping people complete their applications."

Patients who do not currently have insurance are being encouraged to talk to a financial counselor now to begin the application process. Financial counselors can be reached by calling 1-800-771-4270. More information is available online at <http://cchealth.org>.

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Public Forum

Community Advisory Board Meeting

In conjunction with the West Contra Costa Healthcare District, Doctors Medical Center invites the public to attend an open forum. This meeting is intended to provide information to the community about Doctors Medical Center's plans for our facilities and to provide an opportunity for community input through the Advisory Board.

Wednesday,
July 9th, 2003

7:00 PM - City Hall Offices
San Pablo
Maple Room

Doctors
Medical Center
San Pablo/Pinole
Tenet California



MEMBERS OF the newly formed Albany Historical Society, from left, Mayor Jewel Okawachi, Ruth Ganong, Joan Larson, and Bill Palmmini pose on the porch of the Gill House in Albany. The house was given to the group by the University of California.

Group works to preserve, record local history

SHALL ALBANY'S history be remembered? Shall the stories of this tiny enclave of fascinating people and colorful history be forgotten? No, indeed, say four prominent Albanians, and they are doing something about it.

Mayor Jewel Okawachi, Lt. Bill Palmmini of the Albany Police Department, Joan Larson and Ruth Ganong have formed the Albany Historical Society, and they are looking for more people to join them.

The four know there is a great deal of interest in the history of Albany; when they put out a 2003 Albany Historic Calendar at the end of last year, the response was very positive, and many people spent time looking for the house they used to live in, or pictures of people they knew. And many of them stopped to tell them stories of their own history in the city.

They have already gathered interesting pictures, stories and artifacts which they hope to show when they have a place for them.

Actually, they even have a house, given to them by the University of California. The Gill House, built in Albany in the 1920s by a professor at Cal, is an attractive three-bedroom house with a large living room, which would be perfect for exhibits and meetings.

But the Gill house must be moved, and the newly formed Albany Historical Society must find a place for it, and the funds to move it.

They know that many people living in the city have family pictures taken in front of

CLARA-RAE GENSER Community Folk

now historic places; pictures of businesses, of community events, of the thousand and one things that go to make up the history of a community. These are some of the things they hope to get.

They have worked with Ronnie Davis, managing librarian of the Albany Library, and with Richard Russo, who has done a great job of putting the existing historical documentation on the library's Web site.

Most of what the library has was donated by the late Catherine Webb, who had file cases filled with pictures and stories in her home when she died. She had also written books on the history of Albany.

The dedicated four feel that it is time for another book on the subject, bringing it up to date.

The group would like to have the Historical Society up and running soon, so it can take part in the planning for Albany's 100th birthday in 2008. It takes years of planning for a celebration as big as this.

Cornell School also will turn 100 that year.

The four founders are as interesting and diverse as the city.

Mayor Jewel Okawachi has lived all of her life in Albany, except for the time when she and her family were interned for three years during World War II, because they were

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Albany Chamber of Commerce, at 1108 Solano Ave., has historic photos in the window and an invitation to become a member of the Albany Historical Society. For information, call Joan Larson at 510-526-7769.

Japanese-Americans.

"Albany has been a big part of my life in the more than 70 years I have lived here," she says. She returned to Albany High School after internment, and graduated with her class. Her parents built the house they lived in and where she grew up.

Okawachi was in business for years, and remembers that she typeset Catherine Webb's first book about Albany.

Bill Palmmini, who has been in police work since 1968, came to work with the Albany Police Department in 1978. He has always been interested in history and has a collection of artifacts. He names many Albany people who have given him items for his collection. He bemoans the fact that many pictures and other items are thrown away because people are not aware of their historical value.

Joan Larson came to the city about 25 years ago. Because her family had always been interested in history, and were and are involved in historical groups in other cities, Larson became deeply involved and interested in what she calls "a very unique community."

Her particular interest is

buildings, and she speaks of the home they bought when they came to Albany. It had been built in 1909 by a family that had come to the East Bay after the San Francisco earthquake. She said a woman in her 90s who lived a few houses away told her she had had her 10th birthday party in that house.

Ruth Ganong and family came in 1955, with three small children (another one was born shortly thereafter). She says she got involved in community affairs when she looked out at the Bay and saw dump trucks dumping material there for landfill. She and others started the Albany Bay Committee, which worked with the Save the Bay people to try to stop the filling.

Ganong, who was always interested in solid-waste management and in education, first was elected to the school board, where she served for eight years.

She was elected to the City Council where she was active in environmental concerns and on the solid waste committee. Believing one shouldn't serve in one capacity more than eight years, she then ran for the AC Transit Board, serving there, too, for eight years. With a lifetime of service to Albany, her interest in the historical society is intense.

Do you know people, places or groups in El Cerrito, Albany or Kensington that would make good subjects for this column? If so, please write me at 555 Pierce St., No. 443, Albany, CA 94706 or call 510-525-4585. My e-mail is crgenser@aol.com.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Please don't light up

IT'S THE SEASON TO be careful, especially when it comes to celebrating our nation's independence by simulating the anthemic "rockets" red glare.

Most of us know, without our fire departments having to remind us, that that it's illegal to own, use or sell fireworks within the El Cerrito and Albany city limits.

We also know that many people will obtain them and then use them illegally to celebrate July 4 with a bang or a blaze.

But there is a very good reason that fireworks are illegal: Careless misuse can cause devastating damage and even death. And not only to the user of powerful — or even not-so powerful — pyrotechnics.

Take a look at the golden hills. Exciting trails of sparks sent airborne inevitably heed the call of gravity and can cause less-than-patriotic excitement for our firefighters and those who live near fields of tinder.

We have seen the results in grassfires that already have broken out on East Bay hills.

The winter's prolonged rains have encouraged lush growth that translates, when dry, into abundant fuel for fires.

A pair of unexplained grassfires near Berkeley's Centennial Drive last weekend blackened two acres and should serve as a reminder of just how dry wildlands are in the summer.

In one case near Santa Rosa, some teens using legal fireworks dubbed "safe and sane" managed to destroy a home by setting them off in a manner that disregarded the label instructions.

The kids now face criminal prosecution. That is no way to celebrate a holiday.

While it is normally young kids and teens who use fireworks, parents play a significant role as well. They must resist the temptation to give in to the desires of the kids. Sure, fireworks are fun to watch and kids love them, but the risks are simply too great.

Fireworks displays should be left in the hands of professionals. El Cerrito, Albany and neighboring cities will host a range of activities for the Fourth; Berkeley and Richmond on either side of our cities have truly safe-and-sane fireworks shows after dark.

So take a waterfront seat. And resist the urge to light that fuse. There's no way of knowing what you'll ignite, and we'd all rather not find out.

NO EXIT

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Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

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Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395
Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

HOW ABOUT WE CALL IT
THE DECLARATION OF KING
GEORGE GO SUCK EGGS?

I'M AFRAID IT'S
NOT QUITE
DIGNIFIED ENOUGH



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About the Philippines

The American public, in general, and, unfortunately, most Filipino-Americans and even Filipinos in the Philippines, are uninformed about the history of Philippine-U.S. relations.

The Philippines was the United States' first empire and the circumstances that led to the U.S. takeover have been quite questionable and driven by the philosophy of "white man's burden" and economic interests.

The American public is hardly aware of the Philippine-American War, which was clearly one-sided in a military sense and became protracted as a result of the need for Philippine revolutionaries to carry out guerrilla warfare. Because of these guerrilla tactics, American troops committed atrocities against children and women reminiscent of the Vietnam War.

It is not surprising that the Treaty of Paris barely passed in Congress and many Americans were opposed to it, led by the Anti-Imperialist League, of which Mark Twain was the most outspoken leader.

U.S. history books called the Philippine-American War "Philippine insurrection," which is clearly a distortion, since the Filipino revolutionaries were fighting for independence and against U.S. takeover. The Filipinos wanted to determine their own destiny.

The double standard of U.S. policy is clear from the decision to grant independence to Cuba but not to the Philippines, where there were numerous uprisings against Spain's colonization of about 300 years.

Now, the United States can learn from the lessons in the Philippines 100 years ago about nation building in Iraq. It is harder than it looks.

In retrospect, the Vietnam tragedy could have been avoided if lessons were learned from the Philippine experience. Freedom and self-determination are valued by all of humanity.

Ben de Lumen
El Cerrito

No Emeryville-ization

I understand Albany needs money and the proposed Target on the Eastshore Highway would bring in much-needed revenue but, as the woman at the June 10 city planning commission meeting asked, "Is this the best you can do?"

The thought of a Target in Albany is abhorrent to me and many others. It is also disturbing that the planning commission, after hearing two hours of well-articulated and thoughtful questions concerning the Target proposal, approved the project anyway. (I understand there's still time for residents opposing the plan to state their views at the July 7 City Council meeting and with letters and phone calls, before that.)

Some concerns relate to traffic snarls, corporate policy regarding sweatshop labor, environmental impact, a Target's effect on Solano Avenue shops, and the eventual Emeryville-ization of Albany should superstores start appearing in the town.

The Chamber of Commerce assures us Solano Avenue stores will benefit from a nearby Target and swears the proposed site is the last Albany property suitable for a big-box store. Where's the guarantee for such statements?

At the June 10 meeting, a professional

environmental consultant (an Albany resident), said the planning commission had several projects on its agenda and was failing the city by not addressing all the projects as one.

What if the Target goes up? Is it then easier for the development company and the Chamber of Commerce to railroad through a huge entertainment complex next to Golden Gate Fields? What about Memorial Park and University Village? If these projects are treated separately, the damage creeps in, unbeknown to residents.

Albany does need money and the space proposed for Target seems a difficult space to sell, but are we going to sell the soul of Albany now because we're not willing to continue looking for a more suitable project for that space?

Let's remember Albany's mission statement: "The city of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future."

Letitia Berlin
Albany

A nice idea, but ...

America, the world's superpower, must promote the rule of law wherever it can, at home and in the Middle East.

All most people want is to live in an orderly society under just laws upheld by an independent judiciary, wherein a judge is nothing but the mouth of the law, its specific application in an ambiguous situation.

The U.S. legislative and judiciary branches, subservient puppet regimes as they are to America's real power structures, mustn't be replicated in the "democratic" regimes America wants to set up in the Middle East. Replacing Saddam with Rumsfeld isn't an improvement.

The peoples of the Middle East are entitled to live under laws and governments they accept as "just" and beneficial to their societies. They may prefer to live under Islamic law, a theocracy or a benevolent dictatorship instead of taking a chance with these always corrupt democratic elections.

Democracy's a nice idea but, in practice, it only works well if all people are decent and caring and don't place their own interest above that of others.

America can only be a shining light to the world if it stands firm behind its ideals for liberty, equality and brotherhood.

America must remain the archenemy of colonialism and racism, of all societies which maintain a gross inequality of wealth and income and freedom among its citizens.

Jan H. Visser
Kensington

HOW TO REACH US

Letters to the editor reflect the opinion of the writer. Letters must include your first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Richmond, CA 94530

FAX: 510-644-1735

E-MAIL: journal@cctimes.com

Feeling Targeted

I am a retail business owner on Solano Avenue in Albany and am concerned about the possibility of the Target moving into our city.

One of the wonderful things about Albany is that it has maintained its small town flavor despite "big box corporations" moving into surrounding areas. In a short discussion I had with the mayor at a recent function, she informed me that Target would bring in much-needed financial resources at a time when state funding may continue to become scarce.

I asked her if she and the City Council had explored any other options, such as what similar cities have done in lieu of inviting corporations. She said they had not done so.

When the mayor asked me if I thought Target would hurt my business, I told her there are probably product lines I can't that may need to be discontinued if Target moves in. I can think of many other businesses on Solano Avenue for which this may be the case.

It is a shame Albany may lose some of its charm and, possibly, some of its small businesses on Solano.

I also think it is a shame other possibilities haven't been explored. We have many creative people in the area, not to mention a wealth of information available at our fingertips which can connect us with cities facing similar problems.

Do we really want Albany to look exactly the same as many other cities in America — strip malls and big-box complexes? We must be creative and inspired enough to look past the easy solutions toward ideas that are nurturing and sustainable for the people and the environment.

Pennie Opal Plan
Albany

News degradation

I would like you to know that I am very upset about the direction of this White House in general, but in particular, its stance toward the free press.

We are in desperate need of more diversity and less corporate ownership of the press and media.

I have seen a dismaying degradation of the quality of the news as this trend has been unfolding, and I find the Federal Communication Commission's recent ruling extremely upsetting. That a regulatory body would not be willing or interested in the public opinion or the public good is astonishing to me. For what other purpose does such a commission exist? What other master does it serve?

Mary Duryee
Albany

Destroy the forest

Here is a solution to the ongoing battle between Pacific Lumber and the conservationists.

Maybe Pacific Lumber should just buy up all the houses downstream, all the fishing boats and the fish, the spotted owls and all the other animals in the forest — then they could just go ahead and destroy the forest as much as they wanted to.

Stephen Jory
Berkeley

A quick look at libraries and issues of Internet censorship

Quote of the week: "Madam, circulating library in a town is an evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge! — It blossoms through the year! And depends on it ... they who are so fond of handling the leaves, will die for the fruit at last."

— Richard Sheridan (1751-1816), from "The Rivals"



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

"I THOUGHT I WOULD write a little about the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), since the Supreme Court upheld it last week. First, a short history, in case you're not sure how it came out and what exactly it is. On Aug. 19, 1999, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., introduced a bill to require the installation and use of filters by schools and libraries of technology for filtering or blocking material on the Internet on computers with Internet access

to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance."

The bill goes on to say: "the determination of what material is to be deemed harmful to minors shall be made by the school, school board, library ... No agency or instrumentality of the United States government may establish criteria for making that determination; review the determination made ... or consider the criteria employed ..."

The vagueness of this part impresses me, because it appears to water down the bill: If

a library can choose what filter to use, why not choose the worst? And if "harmful to minors" is open to interpretation, then why not make the interpretation equally vague? The problem with this is professionals run libraries and so decisions are made thoughtfully and intentionally. Further, choosing a poor filter or avoiding the question of what is harmful doesn't address the true issue here: Given that it is not the job of a library to censor material, how does the Internet fit in with this basic philosophy?

There has been a lot of activity around this issue since 1999. The American Library Association (ALA) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed lawsuits; editorials and essays have been written, and many good points have been made. Examples of

the erratic nature of filters have been given: pornographic sites get through and legitimate sites are blocked — we've all seen examples of this.

But again I think these are missing the point. In a way, they are like red herrings, just as the government's call to arms to protect our children seems questionable, since there are so many ways in which our government is not protecting them.

So, what should a library be doing about the Internet? I agree children shouldn't view pornography — or ads, for that matter — but I don't agree the logical next step is to censor what is available. Instead, libraries should help their Internet users be smart and educated about their searching.

Just as we select books and other materials, we should help

them by providing easy to use and reliable search tools, such as the Librarians' Index to the Internet (LII), which is a huge annotated data base of Web sites. By starting with LII or another recommended site, we focus on quality resources. Unlimited access to the Internet would still be available, but other choices would appear first.

In case you are wondering, the Alameda County Library has filtered Internet access in the children's area and a choice of filtered/not filtered in the adult section. This doesn't follow the CIPA guidelines, but the loss of funding doesn't affect us greatly.

READER REVIEW: This week, Martha reviewed W.G. Sebald's "Austerlitz." About "a man trying to discover the mystery of his own past," Martha

says it is a "complex narrative — it's not for people who insist on a straight-forward narrative." She recommends it because of "its beautiful prose ... the author worked with the translator to produce a poetic prose style."

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@ac-library.org or at the Albany Library.



Once upon a time ...

SCHOOLERS LISTEN to a story read by Amanda Wilmsen of Albany, one of many teenagers who have joined the Albany Library's program in which teens volunteer, go through training and read children's books aloud to little ones. The drop-in "Read Me A Story" program is for children ages 5 and up and runs Monday through Thursday and Saturdays 2-4 p.m.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Upcoming programs sponsored by the Friends of the Albany Library for summer include The Wildlife Associates: face-to-face with live predators at 10 a.m. Thursday, July 17. There are also feature-length films for school-age kids screening at 3 p.m. Thursdays, July 10 to Aug. 14.

The Kensington Library hosts Family Storytimes for all ages at 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and 7 p.m. Tuesdays except when special programs are scheduled.

The library will hold its wrap-up party and puppet show for the end of the Summer Reading Program at 7 p.m. Aug. 26.

The Kensington Library is located at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. Phone: 510-524-3043.

Upcoming programs at the El Cerrito Library include:

■ Preschool Storytimes (required registration is open now and ends July 10);

■ Babytime Lapsit for ages infant through 2 (child attends with parent), 10:30 a.m. Thursdays through Aug. 14;

■ Toddler Lapsit for ages 2-3 (child attends with parent), 11:30 a.m. Thursdays through Aug. 14; and

■ Picture Book Time, for ages 3-4, (child may attend without parent), 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Aug. 12.

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito.

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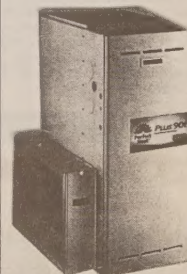
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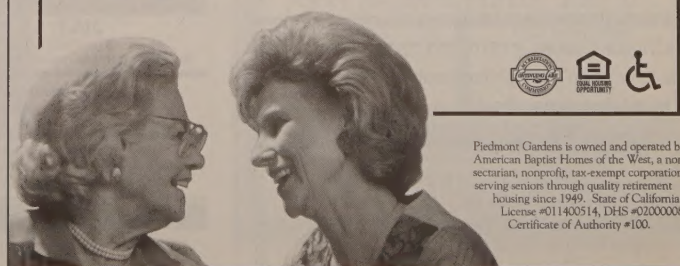
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Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Ann Fields, 1969 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611; e-mail to afields@ccittimes.com or fax to 510-339-4066.

Children

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents a new program, "What's Under the Hood," from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on July 12, in the parking lot behind the Albany Library. This free workshop is an opportunity for teens to find out more about what's under the hood of the car they drive. Sign up at the Albany Library reference desk. Driver must bring a car to the workshop. For more information, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

■ The Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., presents "Read Me a story," a free drop-in program in which teens read picture books aloud to young children, ages 3 and up. The program will take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Saturday through August 16. For more information, call Julie Winkelstein at 510-526-3720, ext. 20.

■ Miriam's Daughters, a free workshop for emerging female poets, ages 13-19, takes place from 9 a.m. to noon July 7-11, at the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Workshop includes innovative writing exercises, field trips, visiting poets, and a community poetry reading. To register call 510-848-0237 ex. 112 or e-mail infor@brjcc.org.

■ Lawrence Hall of Science presents the exhibit "Lego Ocean Adventure," through Sept. 7. The underwater world comes to life through role play and hands-on activities. Children learn how people eat, sleep, and work while living underwater as well as how scientists explore the ocean depths using unmanned rovers. Children can role play and construct their own Lego creations of underwater vessels and instrument. Hours: daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: \$8 adults; \$6 youth 5-18, seniors and disabled; \$4 for children 3-4; free under 3. Details: 510-642-5132.

■ Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet—mouse skills, e-mail, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10-11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

■ Children's Social Skills and Manners workshops are offered in Albany on Saturdays for two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. Each workshop lasts for four weeks. Details: Linda, 527-7551.

■ Teen Support Group meets twice a month Tuesday evenings at the Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave. The free group is for teens who have a parent or caregiver with cancer. The meeting is co-facilitated by a teen whose mother had breast cancer. Details: 531-7551.

■ Check out books from the Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center Library. Spend quality time with your kids, meet with the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots or check out best sellers. The library is at 1414 Walnut St. Hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Details: 848-0237.

■ El Cerrito offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. Details: Lucie, 215-4371.

■ LGBTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent child care at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. Details: Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560.

■ The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. Details: 524-0821.

Community

■ Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. Details: 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

■ Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

■ TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 meets Thursdays, 7:15-8:30 p.m. Thursday at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Details: Betty Coates at 235-0490.

■ Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. For an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine has a background in design and education. Call 848-6370.

■ Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 844-8736.

■ Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Details: 642-0808.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. Details: 525-5231.

■ Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for details.

■ Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. PO Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

■ "Work Buddies," volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

■ Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for

Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 800-642-9355.

■ SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

■ The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

■ English-In-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour weekly. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

■ Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For details call 466-5663.

Exhibits

■ John F. Kennedy University Arts Annex, 2956 San Pablo Ave. (second floor) in Berkeley hosts "Patterns, a free MFA Graduate Exhibition" Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., July 21-31. A reception will be held July 26, 5-8 p.m. 510-649-0499.

■ Photoblog Gallery, 2235 Fifth St., continues its exhibit of black and white photographs by East Bay photographer Andy Stewart through July 19. A reception for the artist will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. June 14. For more information, call 510-644-1400 or Andy Stewart at 510-849-1765.

■ ACCI Gallery, 1652 Shattuck Ave., exhibition of works by Tony Natsoulas through July 14. Natsoulas, who earned a Master of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Arts from UC Davis, comes from a pop art perspective and is positioned solidly in the California Funk Movement. Details: 510-843-2527.

■ El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Students will have chance to

explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. Details: Judie, 215-4371.

Film/dance/stage

■ Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YWCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience needed. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2, Kids \$1. Details: 525-1130.

■ Family Folkdancing takes place the third Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Details: 632-3713.

■ Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. Details: Michael Marango at 528-7858.

■ Katie's Dance Studio in El Cerrito presents "Showtime 2003," June 28 and 29 at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. Dancers ranging in age from 3 to over 55, perform tap, jazz, hip-hop, ballet, acrobatic and dances. For details about show times and purchasing tickets call 510-524-1310 or 925-229-2695.

■ Dance to the swinging sounds of Afro-Cuban Dance music with Jesus Diaz y Su OBBZ at 9:30 p.m. June 28, at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Admission: \$12. For more information, call 510-849-2558.

■ Actors Ensemble of Berkeley, the city's oldest stage company completes its 46th season with "The Bacchae," at 5:30 p.m. June 21, outdoors at Berkeley's John Hinkel Park, off The Arlington

at Southampton Avenue and Sonoma Place. Performances continue the July 6. Free admission. For more information, call 510-525-1620 or visit Web site at www.aefberkeley.org

■ Central Works Theater Ensemble continues its production of "The Sisters," a comedy, through July at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., and July 25 through August at the Thack House, 1695 18th St., San Francisco. Dinner is available in Berkeley City Club Dining Room. The show on Thursdays and Saturdays tickets: \$8-20 sliding scale. For more information, call 510-558-1790. For dinner reservations call 510-47800.

Health

■ Charcot Marie Tooth support meets Saturdays bimonthly at the Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a rare, hereditary condition. Details: 524-3506.

■ YWCA Health and Community, a non-profit organization, offers a variety of yoga, martial arts and more. United YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-4581.

Lecture/workshop

■ The Berkeley Camera Club meets every Tuesday evening, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, The Alameda, Berkeley. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly trips. Details: Don, 510-525-3565. www.berkeleycameraclub.org

■ Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center expanded its collection of contemporary fiction, nonfiction, children's books. Meet the children's librarian, research your Jewish roots, check out best sellers. The library is open to the public. Hours: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Details: 848-0237.

■ Tai Chi Chuan and Chi-kung classes take place at Berkeley Unitarian

See CALENDAR, Page 1

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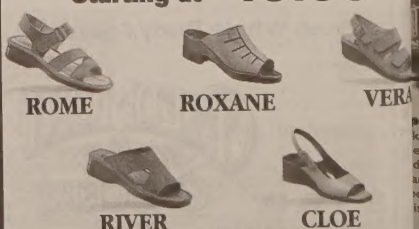
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on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings at Berkeley Point Career Center. The office of Unitarian Universalists, 2000 Grand Ave., Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94704. People of all ages and conditions are welcome to attend. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

WCA offers free orientations of the Point Career Center. The office of Unitarian Universalists, 2000 Grand Ave., Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94704. People of all ages and conditions are welcome to attend. Donation: \$65. 268-4995.

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Transcendental Meditation, "is a peaceful spiritual introduction to the basics of the practice. The free seminar takes place at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1400 Avenue, Prigato Dove is the instructor. Details: 644-0861.

Anonymous Twelve-Step meetings are held every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 644-0861 for Berkeley location.

Literary Events

Going Travel Shop and Book 355 Shattuck Ave., presents co-edited by Steve and Terry Halbert their book "Expedition to a National Park Odyssey," July 8. The authors present a collection of essays about the history of parks from Alaska to the West. Free. For more information, call 843-3533.

Reading for Adults, a group of poets and listeners, who love to read and listen to the oral tradition, meet from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on Thursday each month at the Berkeley Public Library, 1400 Avenue, Prigato Dove is the instructor. Details: 644-0861.

Reading Edge is available for use at the Berkeley Public Library,

2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. 644-6648.

Meetings/Lectures

Kol Hadash is the Bay area's only Jewish Humanistic Congregation, with more than 110 family members from Berkeley to Danville, Petaluma, San Francisco to Concord, and all communities in between. The group meet on the 4th Friday of each month for a regular Shabbat (Sabbath), every other month on a Saturday for a Family Shabbat. The group holds Sunday school classes two Sundays a month, celebrates all the major Jewish holidays and holds special events from time to time. Location: Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. For details call 428-1492.

Berkeley Camera Club meet every Tuesday evening, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. For details call Don at 510-525-3565 or visit the Web site at www.berkeley_camera.club.org.

Beginning Internet Workshops take place at the El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave. Learn the basics of the Internet mouse skills, email, web searching, and the library's on-line catalog and databases. Classes are free of charge. Alternate Saturday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. Call 510-526-7512 to sign up.

Miscellany

The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive in Berkeley, holds **Twilight Tours** with an expert horticulturist every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. from July 9 to Aug. 13. Tours free for members, \$5 for non-members (includes garden admission).

The University of California Botanical Garden presents **Twilight Tours** with an expert horticulturist every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. from July 9 to Aug. 13. Free for members, \$5 for non-members, includes garden admission. Entrance fees are \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and UC Berkeley Alumni Association members. Call 510-643-2755 to register.

Friendship Circle, a Jewish club for older adults, meet 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, at the Oakland Senior Center, 200 Grand Ave. The club is an outreach program of Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center. Activities include day trips, Jewish holiday celebrations, theater outings, entertainment, speaker and much more. Call Maria at 848-0237 ext. 115 for details.

Improve your speaking skills by attending Berkeley Communicators' Toastmaster meetings, the first and third Wednesdays each month at 7:15 a.m. at Vault's Cafe, 3250 Adeline St. Call 527-2337 for more information.

The Berkeley Camera Club meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. For more details call Don at 525-3565.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more details call R. DeRiti, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at 2515 Hillegas Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For details, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegas Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larde at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Details: 526-9146 or 547-1969.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For details call 848-6370.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting: Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 543-3765.

The Berkeley Artistic Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffey Auditorium, Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegas Ave. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegas Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

"Voices of Healing" is a group exploring the psychological and spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30 p.m. in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; 415-461-5337; \$20.

Taxes

FROM PAGE A1

"If (city) staff or council was aware of the status of this tax after June 2001 and before May 5, 2003, when the El Cerrito Citizens' Alliance raised this issue, then continuing to collect this tax amounts to theft from those who were forced to pay it," he said last month.

Magary ripped the council for not publicly discussing the issue.

"They clearly don't want openness and transparency and want to play political games and spend money without being held accountable," said Magary, who last year prompted the council to collect business license fees that the Citizens' Alliance found had been arbitrarily waived in some cases.

Magary said members of the alliance began researching the transfer tax after winning the business-license dispute because they believed the city could not police itself and would not disclose what was happening with city finances.

Councilwoman Janet Abelson said the Citizens' Alliance's criticisms were politically motivated.

"If his real interest is in getting rid of that tax, he should have said, 'Thank you very much,'" Abelson said. "He did exactly the opposite. Therefore, I assume it's a political agenda."

A lawyer for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association said the tax watchdog group has sued some cities that didn't drop their transfer taxes after the court ruling. Whether cities are affected by the ruling depends on when their tax was enacted.

"We did see several cities voluntarily do the right thing," in the 2001 ruling, said Tim Bittle, the association's director of legal affairs. "Some, we've had to sue. Others that have escaped our notice like El Cerrito are getting

around to it later."

The ruling came in a case involving a utility tax in the Orange County city of La Habra that had been enacted without a vote after Prop. 62 passed but more than three years before it was finally declared constitutional in 1995.

The Jarvis association argued that the three-year statute of limitations on collecting an illegal tax begins again every time the tax is collected. The state Supreme Court eventually ruled with the association.

Bittle said that as of November, Hercules and El Cerrito were still collecting utility taxes overturned by the La Habra case.

"We have no litigation going on against any of those cities, even though we know about the apparent illegal tax because nobody's contacted us and volunteered to be a plaintiff," Bittle said.

El Cerrito's repeal of the transfer tax will go into effect 30 days after the City Council's final approval. The city is refunding money to anyone who has bought or sold a home or business and applied for a refund within a year.

"While the city may have saved money, it certainly hurts the credibility of leadership of the city that they weren't fully forthcoming about this," said Kris Vosburgh, the executive director of the Jarvis Association.

Michael Coleman, a chief consultant with the League of California Cities, said cities have struggled with understanding tax initiatives and legal rulings while seeing large portions of their property taxes siphoned off to the state.

"I have no basis to say they're doing anything wrong or crazy or whatever," Coleman said. "I have respect for city officials and the hard work they do. They act in good faith, and they probably made some errors."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

MORE ON CLS

Community Learning Services is at 1309 Solano Ave. in Albany. Call 510-527-2344 or see www.communitylearningservices.org.

ents and teen-agers. The cafe was intended to be a hangout and a place to volunteer five or six days a week and a venue for local bands Friday nights.

The bands were the most successful part of the cafe — so much so that they ultimately put the cafe out of business, after neighbors complained about the noise.

Citing a lack of support from the community and a lack of business during open hours, the cafe closed to the public in March. But CLS remains headquartered there and still offers performances by the East Bay and San Francisco improv organizations. The cafe is also available for rental.

"The public cafe thing was a labor of love, but it didn't capture our expertise and it didn't capture money," said Sly, who has a Ph.D. in science education from UC-Berkeley. "... This refocuses our efforts where our expertise is, which is teaching and learning."

CLS says \$1,440 a month for the former cafe space and plans to renew its lease for three more years in November.

In the meantime, the organization is offering summer classes based on its environmental philosophy, and pretty much anything else its staff of four people know how to do and would be appealing to teen-agers.

Courses include: Learning how to DJ, sewing, cooking, money management, chemistry, writing, band marketing and more.

In the fall, CLS will begin a half-day independent study program for home-schooled students or those studying independently. The program would be personalized for each student, who will work with CLS staff on projects and community service, Sly said.

Grants, the primary source of funding for CLS, are drying up thanks to the poor economy, Sly said the fall and summer classes are CLS's first "fee for service" programs it has done to make up for the shortfall.

The cost for the summer programs is \$100 to \$150 for week-long sessions.

"It's really hard to live on just grant money," Sly said. "Up until the last six months, we've always been supported by grant money. So we're transitioning like a lot of non-profits to have fee-for-service things."

The transition includes creating courses such as the thriving workshop held this week. Finnin came up with the idea for the thriving class because it's something she's loved to do since she was a teen-ager.

It may not become an obsession for the three young girls, though they happily put together their projects using recycled materials and a glue gun.

Later in the week, they were scheduled to take a field trip to a used-goods store and put projects together from the found items. The girls already had some experience.

"A lot of my friends like to shop on Telegraph, and there's a lot of thrift stores there," said 13-year-old Portola Middle School eighth-grader Emily Wilkins.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

PAGE A1

writing is an obsession and a life for some people, with included, since I'm teaching Sass," Finnin said.

Writing is one of the summaries offered by the Alameda Community Learning Services, an education organization with an environmental focus.

any resident Carolie Sly at CLS five years ago. Its is to develop the talents and passions of youth and adolescents and cultivate capacity to improve the

iving worked for the Contra Costa Superintendent pools as a science and environmental education coordinator for 14 years and as a prior to that, Sly wanted something new.

CLS has offered tutoring and educational projects for teens, does education curriculum design, meeting facilitation and waste-reduction teaching in 10 school districts, mostly in East Bay.

In 2000, CLS began running Eclectica at 1309 Solano with a group of local par-

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NEWS BRIEFS

El Cerrito

City Council cancels three meetings

The City Council has canceled its July 7, Aug. 4 and Sept. 4 meetings. The council will meet for its regular meetings on the third Mondays of July, August and September as scheduled — July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15. The council meets in the council chambers of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. For information, call 510-215-4305.

July 10 school reconstruction meeting set

A community meeting to view and discuss a recommended master plan for the reconstruction of El Cerrito High School will be held Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m., at the El Cerrito High School Little Theater, 540 Ashbury Ave. A site committee will consider several possible options for new construction at a July 8 meeting. For information, call Viviana Ini at 510-450-1999.

Richmond

Parent meeting to cover school district issues

A parent meeting regarding recent West County School District issues will be held Saturday, July 12, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Richmond Public Library community room. The meeting is a continuation of meetings held in recent months to create ideas for student advocacy. On July 12, parents will share ideas, and begin to create some short- and long-term goals for sustained parent involvement in the decision-making and budget processes of the school district. For information, call Laura Soble at 510-847-6128.

Kensington

Kensington Seniors plan activities

The Kensington Senior Activity Center will meet 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 10 at the Arlington Community Church Social Hall, 52 Arlington Avenue, Kensington. Alan Kaplan will present "The New Kingdom of Life," and there will be a morning German conversation group. Lunch will be held at 12:15 p.m. for \$3. For information, call 510-526-9146.

Radio

FROM PAGE A1

In the event of a total communications breakdown, amateur radio would be only way to gather and spread information. If the fire department's repeaters — necessary for clear communication but necessarily installed at high locations — ever are destroyed by disaster, NALCO will back up emergency services and be available for city officials.

"We are able to provide another communication path in times of emergency," said NALCO secretary Jim Johnston. "In the meantime, we practice our procedures and do some community service."

A few days each year, NALCO transforms into RACES, or Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service.

On Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day and sporadic "red flag days" of high risk, volunteer operators patrol Berkeley and Albany to notify the fire department of hazards such as blocked hydrants or illegal barbecues.

"They provide additional eyes on days of high danger," said Deputy Fire Chief David L. Orth. "They are very advantageous to us."

There are emergency service groups in Alameda, Oakland, San

Francisco and beyond, all with similar agreements with their local departments.

At least 300 known hams in the Bay Area work their radios for a range of recreational uses, from Morse Code transmissions to "rag-chewing," the classic two-way trucker-type chat. They can contact radios across the globe with just 100 watts of power.

Because amateur radios are powered by car batteries, an energy source that literally lines city streets, they are ideal for communication in crisis. So far, no disaster has reduced Berkeley to dependence on amateur radio, and NALCO hopes none ever will.

"We're just going along waiting for an emergency we never want to happen," said Johnston.

For Johnston, who first obtained an amateur radio license in 1949, amateur is hardly a description of experience.

"The word 'amateur' roots from 'amo,' the Latin word for love," said Johnston. "Amateur, rather than professional, means you do it because you love it."

If you would like to learn more about NALCO or amateur radio, call Jim Johnston at 510-525-0828.

Schedule

FROM PAGE A1

EL CERRITO

Fourth of July events will be held at the Portola Middle School yard at Moeser Lane and Navellier Street and across the street at Cerrito Vista Park.

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Food, arts booths, kids games, crafts booths, dancing and more.

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Music and dance festival at Cerrito Vista Park, sponsored by the worldOne radio program on the West Contra Costa School District's radio station KECG.

Featured performers include: Indian classical dancer Jyoti Kala Mandir, bluegrass music by the Whiskey Brothers, belly dancing from the Suhaila Salimpour School of Dance in El Cerrito, Reggae Angels, Andean folk dance from Bolivia Corazon de America and more.

The events are sponsored by worldOne, the El Cerrito Rotary Club and the city.

For information, go online at www.worldoneraio.org or www.el-cerrito.org or call 510-215-4371.

And elsewhere:

Alameda events include:

■ The 28th annual Mayor's Fourth of July Parade starting at 10 a.m. on Park Street at Lincoln Avenue and proceeds via Otis Drive, Grand Street, Encinal Avenue, Central Avenue and Webster Street.

■ The first Mayor's Fourth of July Parade Race, a 5K run starting at 9 a.m. Entry fees support Alameda charities. Information: 510-337-7037 or go to www.alamedarace.com.

■ The crew of the USS Hornet and The Wave Nation take to the decks of the Aircraft Carrier Hornet for food, crafts and live performances by Bay Area artists including Radio Noise, Unauthorized Rolling Stones, Sacred Journey, Krystyle, Rudy Columbiani and Cosmo.

The Hornet festivities begin at 1 p.m. with nonstop music and after dark, watching fireworks around the Bay from the Flight Deck.

Adults are \$15 for the day, children 5 and younger are free, ages 5-18 years \$5. There's plenty of free parking. Details: 510-521-8448 or www.uss-hornet.org.

WHAT'S OPEN; WHAT'S CLOSED

What local facilities will be open over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Federal offices	closed	closed	closed
State offices	closed	closed	closed
County offices	closed	closed	closed
Most city offices*	closed	closed	closed
Post offices	closed	open	closed
Schools	closed	closed	closed
Banks	closed	some open	closed
Major retail	open	open	open
AC transit	Sunday schedule	Regular schedule	Regular schedule
BART	Sunday schedule	Regular schedule	Regular schedule
WestCAT	Sunday schedule	Regular schedule	Regular schedule

*Not all cities with meters allow free parking on all holidays. Information is on meters. Amtrak to Sacramento runs on a weekend schedule for major holidays.

Berkeley's free holiday celebration runs from noon to 10 p.m. at the Berkeley Marina.

The alcohol-free event will feature entertainment on two stages, arts and crafts and sailboat rides all capped by the 9:30 p.m. fireworks show. All cars must be into the marina by 7 p.m. and will not be permitted exit until after 10 p.m.

For information, call 510-548-5335.

The day's schedule is:

■ Adventure Playground, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

■ Reverend Rabla, blues guitar, noon-2 p.m.

■ Troupe Tangiers belly dancer, noon-1 p.m.

■ Madame Ovary's egg puppets, noon-7 p.m.

■ Professor Gizmo, one-man band, 1-2 p.m.

■ Sailboat rides, 1-4 p.m.

■ Southbound, dance music, 2-5 p.m.

■ Body and Soul, dance music, 2-4:30 p.m.

■ Bird Legg and the Tite Fit Blues Band, dance music 4:30-7 p.m.

■ Mamborama, dance music, 5-7:30 p.m.

■ Kollasuyo, dance music, 5-9 p.m.

■ Bicycle parade, 7 p.m.

■ MotorDude Zydeco, dance music, 7-9:30 p.m.

Piedmont will hold a parade July 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Highland Avenue. The traditional parade features local bands, floats and antique cars. A pancake breakfast precedes it and a community festival follows it, in Piedmont Park.

In Pinole, the annual Independence Day festival in Fernandez Park will begin at 4 p.m. featuring the Latin Soul Project West Coast Salsa & Soul. Fireworks will be launched at Bayfront Park at dusk. Information: 510-724-4484.

Richmond will hold a fund-raising barbecue to raise money for the on-going restoration of the S.S. Red Oak Victory, located at 1500 Dornan Drive, Point Richmond.

The shipboard barbecue will offer views of fireworks displays over the Bay.

Tickets are \$15, in advance only. Call 510-222-9200.

Marina Bay Park will be the location of the city's annual fireworks display, 7-10 p.m. July 3.

Myths

FROM PAGE A1

■ George Washington didn't have wooden false teeth. They were made of hippopotamus tusks and cow's teeth. He lost his own choppers due to an unfortunate habit of cracking walnuts with his teeth. People warned him it would happen, but would he listen? Noooooo.

Washington didn't cut down a cherry tree, either. That story was invented by an itinerant bookseller and occasional preacher named Mason Weems 20 years after Washington's death.

Incidentally, that stern face staring out from the \$1 bill doesn't look much like the real Washington. He and the artist, Gilbert Stuart, took an instant dislike to each other from the moment they met, and most historians think the portrait is Stuart's revenge.

Which isn't to say Washington's frosty reaction so unnerved him, he vowed never to attempt anything like that again.

■ Ben Franklin didn't fly a kite in a thunderstorm. That hazardous duty was left to his illegitimate son, William, who dutifully took the risks while dad stayed safely to the side, taking notes, and the credit.

And how did he repay

William? When the war was over, William declared his love to England and was clapped away in a dank prison for seven long years. He never lifted a finger to help.

■ Paul Revere never said "The British are coming." He would have made no such cause in 1776 Revere, another patriot, still considered himself a British subject. He really said was, "The lars are coming."

He didn't say, "One if by sea," either. That was invented during the War by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who wrote the Midnight Ride of Paul Revere to boost Union morale. Okay, okay, so-so poetry, but it's a story.

■ The Battle of Bunker Hill wasn't fought on Bunker Hill. But Bunker Hill is cooler, so that's what it has. An early example of propaganda, so-so poetry, but it's a story.

"But in more important, the Revolution still has to teach us," says eminent Berkeley historian Robert D. Kellam, author of "The Cause."

"The Revolution was the price of tea, it was power — and how to abuse. Pretty relevant even now, don't you think?"

Reach Martin Snapp at 262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

Target

FROM PAGE A1

the city's Cleveland Avenue/Eastshore Highway redevelopment area. The idea behind redevelopment is to eliminate blight and encourage new development.

After taking public comment, the City Council, acting as the city's redevelopment agency — called the Reinvestment Agency in Albany — will decide whether to approve: an addendum to the redevelopment plan's environmental impact report; a conditional use permit to authorize a retail use in that district; and approval of the design itself — a 164,865-square-foot store plus an adjacent 8,000-square-foot garden center.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has recommended that the Reinvestment Agency move to approve the project.

The store will have two levels and 607 parking spaces. It would be scheduled to be built by October 2004.

"I know that there are people out there that have concerns, notably about traffic and also how it fits in with the Albany character," said City Ad-

ministrator Beth Pollack. "On the other hand, the people who have had concerns about the zoning and the way the project is being handled."

In response to traffic concerns, Target intends to pay 10 percent of the cost of light at Buchanan Street and Eastshore Highway. Target also wants to make a motorist to make a motorist, though the city says it could take 18 months to be put in.

For a period of five years, until a left turn signal is installed at Buchanan Street, Target has agreed to fund mass-season traffic officers if the city detours them're warranted.

At Gilman Street and shore Highway, Target will contribute signs and left turns onto Gilman during peak hours — between 3 and 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

Friday, July 4, 2003

Section B

105-year-old home helps preserve, stabilize Berkeley neighborhood

Colonial Revival home is award from Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association

JERRI HOLLAN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
Each year, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association (BAHA) recognizes outstanding projects in the preservation field.

From large projects by the University, to small bungalows in Berkeley, BAHA seeks out projects that represent all aspects of preservation and that also have community value. This year, 10 awards were given that span the spectrum from the hills to the flatlands.

The award given to Jerri Hollan & Associates, Architects, for the Wm. A. Knowles House, a Colonial

Revival home built around 1895, illustrates the many challenges homeowners have when rehabilitating their old homes. It also illustrates the many opportunities they have to bring their homes into the 21st century.

At the time of purchase, this home had not been maintained and was in need of major repairs as well as structural upgrades. It contained a basement which had a partial wood floor the balance of which was dirt.

The existing foundation was brick. A three-story brick fireplace ran up through the middle of the structure. The house had no heat. And many of its old windows needed attention.

The owners initially planned to do major structural improvements (foundation replacement and window repairs) in conjunction with making the basement area a habitable family space.

To do this, the structure was raised 4 feet to create a ventilated crawl space. Favorable loan conditions allowed the scope of work eventually to expand and include kitchen and bathroom renovations, sunroom improvements, roof repairs, fireplace replacement, a rear veranda addition, period light fix-

See REMODEL, Page B2

FROM PLAIN TO POLYCHROME: the remodel of this 105-year-old Colonial Revival home in Berkeley did much more than improve the home's interior. The home's outdoor color scheme added grace and style to the facade and helped preserve its Berkeley neighborhood's character. The Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association awarded the project a prestigious preservation award.



PHOTOS BY JERRI HOLLAN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

Real Estate Spotlight:

Tuscan villa complex basks in Berkeley



INSPIRED BY A TUSCAN VILLA, this enchanting property at 971 Hilldale, Berkeley, is secluded on its own promontory, a veritable Italian village. This is a Mediterranean experience of sun, light and vistas of the bay. Exquisite gardens surround the property with cascading terraces, fountains, double staircase, a unique blue-tiled pool, a grotto, and hand wrought iron gates and balconies. This is a private world created when the cost to create a total environment of such quality, imagination and the finest workmanship was not a consideration.

The main residence has three bedrooms and three baths, separate library/office, six elegant fireplaces, an underground wine cellar and a ballroom. There are two private guest residences, featuring soaring beamed ceilings and dining balconies with hand-carved balustrades. Each guest house has its own separate entry and access to the main gardens. A detached caretaker's cottage enjoys its own courtyard and garage. Situated on an approximately 21,000-square-foot parcel, the property in total has 17 rooms, 11 fireplaces, and six garages. The old-world charm is complemented by modern, engineered infrastructure and systems.

Here is truly a unique opportunity to own an architectural treasure in a world of its own.

Price: \$4,250,000.

Listing agent: Bebe McRae, The Grubb Co., 510-652-2133, ext. 415, www.GRUBBCO.COM

Loan processing paralysis causing delays

You are a buyer or seller in today's market. The home is in escrow and it seems to be proceeding nicely. Suddenly, the transaction comes to a screeching halt. The lender has dropped the ball in processing the loan. You can save yourself severe stress by anticipating this issue.

Lender service suffering

With interest rates at historic lows, buyers are taking advantage of their opportunity to lock in ex-

remely attractive fixed loans, in some cases under five percent. More significant, however, is the financing activity by existing homeowners. Approximately three of every four residential loans today is a refinance.

This torrent of "refis" has been clogging up the system. In particular, lenders with the best rates are being besieged with applications. Unfortunately, the most popular banks do not have sufficient staff to handle the onslaught.



DON DUNNING
What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

To make matters more complicated, the lowest rates appear to be alternating every week or two between the large lenders. As a lender's rates decrease, its activity increases and proper customer service is forgotten.

If you already own a home and are refinancing, the expeditious pro-

See DUNNING, Page B2

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BR 4.5 BA John Hudson Thomas designed home known as the "Spring Mansion". Includes 3BR house, 2BR cottage on approx 3.2 acres. Tennis court, pool and atrium.
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CLAREMONT HEIGHTS \$1,349,000
BR 2.5 BA New construction. Level back yard. Offered Bay view & fabulous finishes. Gourmet kitchen, family room, formal living & dining. Lavish master.
David Eckert 510-339-4700



OAKLAND \$999,000
BR 2.5 BA 8 rooms. Upper Rockridge/Claremont homes. Born 1995. Stately traditional 2 story home offers amenities, customizations & touches. Views of hills.
Josh Whitmer 510-486-1495



CLAREMONT HILLS \$945,000
BR 3 BA 1999 built; great floor plan & separation of space; approx 1220 sq ft; Klt/Fam. Rm; combination; HWF; SS; usable front & rear yard; light; views.
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New exciting price. 5+ BR 3.5 BA Stunning Contemporary Enjoy privacy & nature on huge, oak-studded lot w/ views. Dramatic floor plan!
Donna Conroy 510-339-4700



CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$799,000
Sun 2 - 5
700 Trestle Glen
BR 2.5 BA Light & bright 2-story Traditional with loads of charm, level yard, big cat-in kitchen, living & dining rooms. Close to Lakeshore shops.
Joan Duffield 510-339-4700



BERKELEY \$399,000
2 BR 1 BA Central Berkeley craftsman w/ separate office/workshop. EZ distance to No. Berkeley BART (2 minutes), Monterey Mkt & Ohlone Pk located across street!
Maura Allen 510-981-3034



MILLS COLLEGE \$249,000
Sun 2 - 4:30
5835 Kingsley Cir
2 BR 1 BA Today's complete starter in community of caring people! Darling in, more than meets the eye. Updated fixtures, tile fls/crpt, Smp patio & mini garage.
James Brown 510-486-1495

OPENS

CLAREMONT HEIGHTS \$1,275,000
Sun 2 - 4:30
41 Evergreen Lane
BR 2.5 BA New construction. Level yard, Bay view, design by Jim Oryala, award-winning architect. Lavish master suite, chef's kitchen, well-appointed family room.
David Eckert 510-339-4700

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,200,000
Sun 2 - 4:30
3509 Klamath
4 BR 3.5 BA New construction, 5-bridge view, fabulous finishes, gourmet kitchen/family room combo, private office & lavish master suite w/private terrace.
David Eckert 510-339-4700

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$975,000
Sun 2 - 4:30
3+ BR 2.5 BA Beautifully renovated Italianate, Old World charm, wonderful living room, remodeled eat-in kitchen, FDR, library, rec room, private yard.
Dian Hymer 510-339-4700

MONTCLAIR \$924,000
Sun 2 - 5
6058 Fairlane Dr.
4 BR 1 BA 4-yr-old custom home w/bridge vu, level-in, lots of light, hardwood floors. Just reduced in price for a quick sale. Very clean-move right in!
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MONTCLAIR \$519,000
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3 BR 1.5 BA Great value! Sunny & spacious on corner lot. FDR, HDWD floors & glass block detail; 2-car garage. Close to schools, shopping & transportation.
Darcy Diamante 510-339-4700

SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$499,000
Sun 2 - 4:30
10975 Caladen St.
3 BR 1.5 BA Level-in home on approx. 1/2 acre. Corner lot, well-maintained, HWF, dining room opens to nice patio & lush garden. Pride of ownership.
Noni Robinson 510-339-4700

LAUREL HEIGHTS (UPPER) \$379,900
Sun 1 - 4:30
3920 Madrone Ave.
2 BR 1 BA Darling Traditional. Living room w/fireplace, dining room, hardwood, garage/interior access, front/back yards, level lot, close to Hwy 13 & 580, Cute!
Victor Ratto 510-339-4700

BY APPT

MONTCLAIR \$1,980,000
5 BR 3 BA Stunning and sophisticated home w/ SF, Bay & Bridge Views! Gracious & open spaces are perfect for elegant entertaining. Amenities galore!
Georgette Karsant 510-339-4700

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,395,000
5 BR 4.5 BA Superior design & craftsmanship; Bay & Claremont Canyon views; gourmet kitchen w/granite counters & SS appliances; luxurious master.
David Eckert 510-339-4700

BY APPT

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,100,000
4 BR 4 BA English Tudor in serene setting. Old World charm & period details. Gourmet kitchen, master suite, large family room, wine cellar, HWF, sauna, decks.
Judy Ackerman & Claudia Bowman 510-339-4700

MONTCLAIR \$1,089,000
4 BR 3.5 BA Spacious 4-level 4+BR/3.5BA designed by owner/licensed architect. Great floor plan, master suite w/F, Red Oak floors, 2-car garage, gourmet kitchen.
Reva Tolbert 510-339-4700

MONTCLAIR \$995,000
4 BR 3.5 BA Stunning new Contemporary close to Montclair Village. Built-in space, formal dining, kitchen/family room combo, master suite opens to terrace yard.
Donna Conroy 510-339-4700

BERKELEY (ELMWOOD) \$875,000
4+BR 3BA Charming built-ins, sun room, HWF, large eat-in kitchen, FDR w/F, French doors; bright & cheery. Close to College Ave. shops.
Reva Tolbert 510-339-4700

OAKLAND HILLS \$839,000
3 BR 3 BA Big views! Oversized, level yard, open floor plan with many upgrades: formal dining & living rooms, quaint breakfast room.
David Eckert 510-339-4700

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$614,500
4 BR 3 BA Enjoy beautiful gumwood trim, 2FP, spacious deck, a nice outlook, larger lot for gardening & level area for play. Near shops.
Rudy Ng 510-339-4700

EL CERRITO \$539,000
3 BR 3 BA Rustic, urban retreat in creekside setting! Double lot w/ wooded view & updated home. Two master bdrms suites w/ private decks & deck with hot tub!
Cheryl Cahn 510-486-1495

EMERYVILLE \$525,000
2 BR 2 BA Grand 1920's Craftsman w/3 fireplaces, breakfast room, FDR, laundry rm, plus rm, deck, spacious yard & greenhouse.
Dan Joy 510-339-4700

ROCKRIDGE (LOWER) \$485,000
2 BR 1.5 BA This home has it all: location, charm, landscaped back yard, light & bright eat-in atrium kitchen. Close to College Ave. and Rockridge BART.
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2 BR 2 BA -Only 2 units left! Beautiful new construction complex. Near Piedmont Ave., downtown view, HWF, granite, Euro fixtures, laundry, 1-car parking.
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MAXWELL PARK \$369,000
2 BR 1 BA Sweet Cottage on fabled street: HWF, stone FP, sunny breakfast room. Live on Christmas Tree Lane in a house full of character & Normandy charm.
Lydia Nayo 510-339-4700

OAKLAND/EMERYVILLE BORDER \$365,000
3 BR 2 BA Spacious 1909 home offers new roof, new windows, upgraded bathrooms, large kitchen, FDR, HWF, huge living room & cute & tasteful front yard.
Reva Tolbert 510-339-4700

BERKELEY \$339,000
2 BR 1 BA Charming Craftsman bungalow in good location, near transp, restaurants & shops. Fresh paint in/out, hwd fls, tpls, garden.
Cheryl Cahn 510-486-1495

ROSE GARDEN \$275,000
1 BR 1 BA Private Redwood grove! Excellent building, great commute location, quiet & peaceful.
Jonathan Dunn 510-339-4700

OAKLAND \$260,000
3 BR 1 BA Craftsman with 3 garages! Huge yard! Priced to sell!
Maura Allen 510-486-1495

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In the Berkeley or Oakland Hills, 4 BR/2 BA home up to \$1,200,000. Please call Josh Whitmer, 510-981-3027.

In Piedmont, 2-3 BR home. Needing renovation O.K. Up to \$900,000. Please call Maura Allen, 510-981-3034.

Preferably in Berkeley Hills & Thousand Oaks area, 4 BR/2 BA home up to \$700,000. Please call Kim & Barbara Marienthal, 510-981-3036.

In El Cerrito, a 3 BR, 1.5 BA home up to \$425,000. Please call Rita Zwierding, 510-981-3008.

In the Berkeley Hills, a 3 BR, 2 BA home with garden a must. Up to \$885,000. Please call Carol Gamble, 510-981-3026.

Light-filled contemporary in Berkeley, 3 BR/2 BA plus garden. Up to \$1,000,000. Please call Nadine Oei, 510-981-3033.

Elmwood/LeConte School, 3+ BR/2 BA, sunny yard, fixer O.K. Up to \$700,000. Please call Sarah Shankman, 510-981-3011.

Rockridge or No. Berkeley, 2 BR or more, Craftsman or classic bungalow, up to \$500,000. Please call Bobbie Giarratana, 510-981-3031.

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Little-known gems of the East Bay

Part three of three parts

In the concluding part of this series on hidden architectural gems, we will take a look at three historic sites in Berkeley that most people would never guess existed. One is a pair of Late Victorian-era cottages on the UC Berkeley campus, the second a Gothic style cloister designed by Julia Morgan, and the third a pair of spec houses that Morgan designed in her first year of independent practice.

At the southeastern edge of the UC Berkeley campus, just behind Wurster Hall, (the Environmental Design Department) stand two remnants of Berkeley's rustic early roots. These are the only remaining residences of what was once a block of College Avenue, (College once ran one block further north than it does today). They still have their original addresses of 2241 and 2243.

Both these picturesque cottages were built by developer Warren Cheney, Number 2241 has a mixture of Queen Anne and Stick Eastlake details on its exterior. It was built in 1885, and was once the home of James Turney

Allen, an early professor of Greek at the University.

Number 2243 College Ave. displays the stylistic features of a Victorian-era Swiss Chalet, including wide overhanging eaves with carved brackets, a second story overhang, and Stickwork resembling half-timbering. It was built in 1902, one year after Queen Victor-

(A look) at three historic sites in Berkeley that most people would never guess existed. One is a pair of Late Victorian-era cottages on the UC Berkeley campus, the second a Gothic style cloister designed by Julia Morgan, and the third a pair of spec houses that Morgan designed in her first year of independent practice.

ria died, and is therefore technically an Edwardian-era home. These two cottages are now owned by the University, and have been used to house various small offices in recent years.

On Dwight Way at Bowditch Street, across the street from the Maybeck Christian Science Church, is the only Gothic style cloister in Berkeley. It is adjacent to and behind Hobart Hall, designed by Julia Morgan in 1918 as the administration building for the American Baptist Seminary of the West. Hobart Hall was built in

Tudor Revival style, which means it combines elements of late Gothic with English Renaissance.

The cloister has large Gothic arches lined with stone that support a brick walkway adjoining the two wings of the old Baptist Seminary along Dwight Way. This walkway continues around two other sides of the cloister, but it is open across the south end of the courtyard, (making it technically three quarters of a cloister). These two later sections of the walkway and the chapel at southwest corner were not designed by Julia Morgan.

This hidden cloister has a connection with my personal history. In the early 1970s, when I was an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, I returned in the fall from a three month hitchhiking trip across Europe just as my junior year was about to begin. There were no rooms in the dorms available then, so for three weeks while I looked for an apartment, I slept beneath the old oak tree in the middle of the cloister because it reminded me of Europe.

When he arrived, he was told they could not locate his file. After almost an hour, they realized that the person who was supposed to be working on the file had called in sick. It was sitting on her desk, one of about 200, mainly unattended, loans being processed by that office.

Success at last

My buyer remained in the underwriter's office for five hours until he saw her e-mail the loan docs to escrow and I confirmed they had been received. I signed the buyers in escrow the next day and the husband hand-carried the signed papers to the underwriter.

The loan was funded on Monday, and closed on Tuesday, three business days, but seemingly years of heartache, later.

If there was any good fortune in this situation, it was that the lender had a local processing office and I had a buyer who was willing to stand up for his rights. In almost 24 years in real estate, I have never experienced anything like this and hope to never have to again.

Interestingly, several days later, I heard from a veteran local broker that he had had an even worse experience with the same lender and had closed three weeks late.

Final thoughts

Until interest rates rise and loan demands slacken, buyers, sellers and their agents have to be aware of lender delays. As a seller, it does not serve your best interests to allow your agent to insist on impossibly short loan contingencies.

On the buyer's end, writing an unrealistic contract regarding financing could cause upset and, possibly, expensive penalties if you do not perform.

Buyers, sellers and their agents need to ask who the lender is and their time frame for processing. Most importantly, buyers must be circumspect about making offers without loan contingencies; sellers should insist on proof of cash to close if a buyer does this.

Remember that, in today's out-of-control loan market, only lenders with uncompetitive rates can keep up with the volume.

Plan accordingly.

Don Dunning is a full-time Realtor and can be reached at www.eastbay-realtor.com or 510-485-7239.



MARK WILSON
Owning A Piece of History



JULIA MORGAN DESIGNED these two spec houses on Etna Street in Berkeley.

A few blocks to the east, on Etna Street just south of Dwight Way, stand two modest brown-shingled houses designed by Julia Morgan. These homes, at 2531 and 2535 Etna Street, were built as speculative houses in 1905.

Standing in front of these two architectural gems, one can get a very strong sense of the creativity and future success that Julia Morgan would achieve.

the first year that Julia Morgan had opened her own practice. Therefore, these are the among the oldest documented designs by Julia Morgan.

These simple houses are both two stories, and their entrances face each other across a narrow, shaded walkway. Although they have almost no exterior ornament, they display a subtle sophistication in their handling of line, materials, and massing. Standing in front of these two architectural gems, one can get a very strong sense of the creativity and future success that Morgan would achieve on the threshold of her illustrious career.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9383 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com.



THIS STICK-EASTLAKE HOUSE was built about 1885. The house is on the UC Berkeley campus behind the architecture department.

Remodel

FROM PAGE B1

tures and exterior and interior restorations.

All the home's existing historic materials and construction were retained and restored, for example, on the exterior and in the living and dining rooms. Where materials and finishes were missing or out-of-style, as in the kitchen and baths, they were remodeled in sympathy with the home's colonial style.

In addition to improving the structure's lateral stability, a completely new, three-zone hydronic heating system was installed.

This energy-saving system heats the house using the water heater as the heat source rather than a typical furnace.

Furthermore, with Berkeley's recent ban on traditional wood-burning fireplaces, the hazardous brick fireplace was replaced with a direct-vent (or faux) fireplace. This period-style, "coal-burning" unit was easily retrofitted into the original wood mantel.

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Special highlights of this renovation project include the kitchen which had been remodeled sometime in the 1960s.

Tall wood windows replaced squat aluminum sashes and a genuine tin ceiling was installed (once the 8-foot dropped ceiling was removed and the original 10-foot high space restored).

Panel cabinets, matching painted sinks, and modern appliances blend old and new for a period look that blends into the original home. Traditional hanging light fixtures were also important in regaining the colonial interior style of the house.

For the final touch and after much paint mixing and debate, a seven-color custom paint scheme for the exterior was selected that highlights the craftsmanship and details of this Colonial Revival residence.

Located in a prominent neighborhood, the project makes a

standing contribution to the community. Zoned for four stories, the area is a mixture of student and gentrified turn-of-the-century houses and contains old, large properties such as one. The home is surrounded by bland, four-story apartment buildings, a result of the University's proximity.

Due to severe deterioration, structural deficiencies, the might have been demolished. A similar apartment house constructed on this property.

Instead, the owners chose to restore the house, and the community benefits from this occupied residence.

The improvements preserve and stabilize the historic residence at the same time, the restoration preserves and stabilizes the fabric of the neighborhood.

Dunning

FROM PAGE B1

cessing of your loan is less of a concern. On the other hand, as a buyer or seller, you could be harmed by unexpected delays.

Pre-approval letter not loan approval

A pre-approval letter is a requirement for an offer to be seriously considered. In most cases, this document is prepared by a mortgage broker who works with a variety of lenders. It indicates that the buyer's credit, funds and employment have been verified and are satisfactory.

There is a computer-based system that can determine whether the buyer meets general underwriting guidelines. If that has been completed as part of the pre-approval process, it makes the letter even stronger.

Nonetheless, a pre-approval letter, unless issued by the same lender that will grant the loan, is not the same as an absolute guarantee that the buyer will qualify. Making binding plans based on a pre-approval letter could turn out to be a mistake.

In our still-competitive market, some aggressive agents take risks with their clients' welfare, whose implications may not be understood until it is too late. With a pre-approval letter in hand, agents who write contracts without a loan contingency (unless the buyer has all the cash necessary to close the sale without a loan) are putting their buyer, and the seller, in a possibly vulnerable position. (See my previous, related article, *Unwritten Contingencies*, on my Web site.)

If there is no loan contingency (even though the buyer needs a loan), and the escrow closes late, or worse, not at all, the buyer could be responsible for damages to the seller. For example, if the seller commits to closing on another property by a certain date, and then incurs large costs because your loan delays caused it to close late, the seller may look to collect from you, the buyer, and your agent.

Promises not kept

I just closed an escrow that aged me unnecessarily. The buyers were extraordinarily well qualified; the home they were purchasing was

lovely and had no red flags that would slow down a loan; and the escrow was a longer-than-usual, 50-plus days. As they say in the lending business, this should have been a "slam-dunk." It was not.

Although my buyer had a pre-approval letter, it was not from a particular lender, but from a mortgage broker. Today, lenders can barely handle actual loan applications. As a rule, there are scant resources for pre-approving borrowers who may, or may not, ever apply for a loan.

The first clue of a problem with the lender was its failure to approve the loan in a reasonable period, three weeks in this case. This was despite the fact that all paperwork and documentation had been provided early. After almost a month, loan approval was finally granted, the loan contingency was removed and the escrow proceeded.

About 10 days before the scheduled close date, the mortgage broker requested that the lender prepare loan documents and send them to escrow. Understanding that there is a turnaround time for lender review after the buyer signs the loan "docs," I knew we needed to have the forms in escrow by Friday for a close the following Thursday. We were assured by the bank representative this would happen. It did not.

I called and told the listing agent there was a good chance the escrow would close late. His sellers were in contract on another house, and he was unhappy to hear the news. It was the prototypical "domino" effect.

Calls were made to the lender and papers were promised for Monday. None were sent. Every ensuing day the number of calls by the mortgage broker to the bank increased, until they reached one per hour, each day. Almost all of these inquiries went unanswered. The few times the bank's managers did respond, we were again promised that the docs would be e-mailed to escrow that day.

Each day arrived, more calls were made, promises were broken and loan docs were not delivered. Finally, on the Thursday scheduled for closing, with still no papers in escrow, I suggested that the buyer go personally to the bank's regional office to confront the underwriter. I knew they would not talk with me; it was worth the long shot that they would speak with my buyer.

The GRUBB Co.



38 Rio Vista Avenue, Oakland
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Located on a verdant oversized lot near popular Piedmont Ave., this spacious three bedroom home features a formal dining room with fireplace, sunny eat-in kitchen, expansive lower level, mature garden with fruit trees, rose bushes and a carriage house. Seeing is believing!
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So you think one agent is as good as any other! Read on!

Number 432 in a series of true experiences in real estate. Every once in awhile in this business, we hear a true horror story. Some years ago a woman and us told us a real

It seems that she and her husband found a house for sale in a neighborhood. The attraction was so much the house (although could do), but the bay view and privacy of the large, heavily wooded lot were exactly what they sought. They immediately made an offer to buy.

Things went badly from the start. There were some of the things the agent told them that were completely untrue: The price is high because the lot can be subdivided.

There are no land slides nearby.

We an advantage to have me present both the seller and you. No, a body was not found on the property last year.

The private road to the house cannot be used by the public.

Your bay view is protected by a riparian agreement.

Sales always take this long to happen.

There won't be any problem getting a loan.

There is no need to get copies of the easements.

Anyway, there aren't any easements.

We against the law for you to get a copy of the loan appraisal.

The untruths unfolded over a period of weeks. By the time the agent left them a vague message of an extra \$75,000 in cash could be needed, the buyers

got jittery but, feeling that the loss of victory was undoubtedly irreparable, they voiced no complaints.

It wasn't until the most amazing event of all occurred that they sought help. One Sunday afternoon they happily climbed the hill to see the house and its bucolic setting. Their eyes met devastation. All of the vegetation — every tree and planting — was killed and dead.

"It looks like Agent Orange has been sprayed everywhere. I can't tell you how terrible it is," the woman told us. "I called the agent. She said she'd ordered the weeds sprayed to reduce the fire risk, but this is everything — everything is dead."

"Do you still want to buy this house?" we naturally asked.

"Yes, we think so," she said.

"We don't want to develop the property. We just want to live and garden there. Maybe after we move in, when the house is occupied again, the neighbors will allow us our privacy."

Maybe we can get insurance that will cover our liability for the road, and if we can find a way to redo the vegetation, we'd like to go ahead."

"But at what price?" we inquired. "The appraisal was done before the trees were destroyed. What is the property worth now? What will it cost, how long will it take to recover the growth?"

"You need to talk to your soils engineer again," we advised.

"You need a new appraisal and a landscape expert. And you need a good real estate attorney."

Darned if she didn't say, "We don't want to get the agent in trouble. She's old and not very together. She might lose her job over this."

"For good real estate agents everywhere, we thank you for your generosity," we replied. "But you have a real problem here. If you are really going to go ahead with this purchase, you need information that isn't likely to come from the agent."

For weeks after this phone call, we talked about this mess. Dying of curiosity, we finally called the buyer back. They had not gotten the appraisal or met again with the engineer. They had not contacted an attorney, had not even talked to the agent's broker.

They had, however, made a new, lower offer. How they had arrived at this new price was not clear. And on that very day that we last talked, because they had not heard anything about their new offer, they had called the agent. Her reply, irritation in every



TARPOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

It looks like Agent Orange has been sprayed everywhere. I can't tell you how terrible it is. I called the agent. She said she'd ordered the weeds sprayed to reduce the fire risk, but this is everything — everything is dead.

word, had been, "I'm in a hurry, can't talk right now. I wish I'd never spent the time working on your offer. It was turned down."

The buyers wanted their \$21,000 deposit back. They wanted to know if their latest offer had been, in fact, ever considered. They wished to find out what would happen to the property now.

Unfortunately, we had no answers. Sometimes nice people go along patiently, expecting things to work out, yet knowing all the while that something's stirring in Rotterdam.

"It's too late now, I know," said our caller. "But it just seemed to us that one agent was as good as any other."

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpo are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarpoandtalbert.com.

Discovering 'La Gue de la Roche': a French bed and breakfast

Through the years, the real estate team of Glass/Sabine has been privileged to represent several exquisite French Normandy-style homes, particularly in the Piedmont area.

Continuing her study of this architectural style, Sheila Sabine took a long weekend holiday and headed for the French countryside, near the town of Limoges, France.

Here, she had the privilege of staying at Le Gue de la Roche, a fantastic 19th-century petite chateau owned by Monique and Gerard Cabin.

Just behind their small chateau, which sits on three-plus acres of rolling green meadows filled with ancient trees, is a tiny hamlet called La Roche, dating back to 3,000 B.C. where remains of stone arrows have been discovered.

Rich in history, the area has been the site of emerald and gold mining, and Richard the Lion-Hearted actually died nearby.

Across the road is the roaring Nacienne River, ancient waterway for the Romans. The house itself was originally built by a wealthy family who owned riverside mills that were the main suppliers of all the flour for the region.

The three-story home contains 15 rooms and is a classic example of French country living at its best. The exterior is made of stone with a steep pitched roof and fancy iron grillwork on the doors and windows.

The rooms have 20-foot-high ceilings with filigree work (frisée) and all the many bedrooms have marble fireplaces, private baths and small balconies overlooking the surrounding countryside.



JUDITH GLASS & SHEILA SABINE
House Talk

Just behind their small chateau, which sits on three-plus acres of rolling green meadows filled with ancient trees, is a tiny hamlet called La Roche, dating back to 3,000 B.C. where remains of stone arrows have been discovered.

Monique is also a gifted painter and many of the walls display her fabulous scenes depicting their travels all over the world.

Monique says that in this home she has truly learned how to enjoy the "art de vivre" and wants to share that concept with all of her guests as well as a sense of hospitality without limits.

She feels that the chateau has provided a true sense of refuge in difficult times and the spirit of the house often speaks to her directly.

She has been guided over and over to share with others what she has learned from the house. Initially she had some hesitation in opening her doors but she describes a time that a friend gave her two large boxes of sterling silverware.

For months, the boxes sat on the veranda, neglected and unopened, until one day Monique's elderly mother walked in, rolled up her sleeves and said that it was time to start polishing the tarnished pieces. Soon after that, guests began arriving.

Indeed, the Cabins have hosted grateful guests from countries around the globe including Brazil, South Africa, China, Israel, Lebanon, Australia, Italy, Switzerland, England, and America, to name a few. Each guest is given the same warm reception and made to feel as if the small chateau was their very own home. There are no locks on the doors and the kitchen door is often left wide open so that the fresh country air can enter freely.

See CHATEAU, Page B4

New options available to MCC holders

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

Many Bay Area homeowners in Mortgage Credit Certificates (MCCs), MCC holders are first-time homebuyers who received assistance in qualifying for a mortgage through a tax credit. The certificate authorizes the holder to take a portion of the federal income tax credits, which effectively lowers the buyers mortgage interest rate.

The Alameda County Housing Community Development Department recently announced some new changes affecting all MCC holders. The county is asking participating lenders, such as Vintage

For example, MCC holders are now able to finance more than one home. They may also be able to remove Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) payments. The best news is that these homeowners, even though their refinance their mortgages are now free to keep their MCCs.

Mortgage Group, to let MCC homeowners know their new options. For example, MCC holders are now able to refinance more than one home. They may also be able to remove Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) payments. The best news is that these homeowners, even though their refinance their mortgages are now free to keep their MCCs.

This news will interest those considering renovating or remodeling their homes or consolidating their debt. Refinancing may not be everyone, but an agent can only answer questions and concerns. Evaluations are available; consultation will also help in making educated decisions on whether or not this is the right time to refinance.

The analysis is free and worth the time, to lower current interest payments. Make a no obligation call to a consultant at 800-799-3377.

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The dog ate my mortgage payment

■ What 'excuses' do work when you're late?


There are probably over 101 excuses for a late mortgage payment, also known as a derogatory entry on your credit report. It is important to address the situation directly, or you may have to live with the problem for at least seven years, not a comfortable position. The worst part of it is, in some cases, it's not even your fault or your credit problem. But it is there, so bite the bullet and handle it now.

The most frequent disputes involve recent credit inquiries. A credit card company wants more of your business. You probably already

have a credit line with them, so without your knowledge or authorization the run a "quickie" credit report and offers you a guaranteed approval. You may not do anything about their offer and toss it in the round file.

When you do authorize to run a legitimate credit report, you may find yourself explaining why there is a recent credit inquiry on your credit report where there should not be one. This is by far the easiest issue to handle when a lender asks for an explanation.

You simply write a few sentences stating that you did not ask or authorize the credit inquiry and did not incur any new credit.



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Madness

Late payments on credit cards, installment loans and mortgages and are another matter, especially if you were late 30, 60, 90 or more days. There are a few classic explanations that the lender will accept.

See SENZIG, Page B7

Chateau

FROM PAGE B3

People always seem to gravitate toward the long wooden 18th-century kitchen table that came with the house. In addition, the kitchen features a lovely 18th-century buffet which was the first piece of furniture purchased for the house. Monique and Gerard bought it from the antiques dealer up the road who was actually born at La Gue de la Roche.

The kitchen is the true heart of the house. At the large table, visitors pour out their life stories over a glass of wine by the warm fire. It's also here in the kitchen where one experiences the essence of French cuisine prepared with flair and style by Monique.

She often comes in from the garden with a handful of fresh herbs, using them as her inspiration for the next meal.

At all times, tempting croissants and breads are waiting to be sampled for the petit déjeuner and at sunset, it's time to relax and enjoy a regional apéritif with Monique as she works her magic in the kitchen. Her cupboards hold many culinary secrets; on the last day of Sheila Sabine's visit, Monique opened one of those cupboards and pulled out a special paté and a bottle of local wine for Sheila to take home and share with friends and family.

In reflecting on their experiences of managing the chateau, Monique and Gerard emphasized these points:

- The interior of the house truly reflects the spirit of the people who live in the house; it is they who have carefully placed each loving object in its special place.
- The people who enter the house are always further developing the interior of the house. In a certain sense, each person adds his or her own special energy to the surroundings.
- People discover the house like two lovers meeting each other for the first time; little by little the beautiful and magical secrets begin to reveal themselves.
- The house allows people to feel truly at peace with a sort of tranquility that is rare - and difficult to find.
- The house can function as a vessel for international diplomacy

with people from many different cultures blending together in peace and harmony.

To learn more about this lovely intimate chateau you can e-mail Monique and Gerard Cabin directly at gecabs@net-up.com.

Glass-Sabine is an East Bay residential real estate team at the Piedmont office of Prudential California Realty. Glass-Sabine can be reached at 510-326-5055 or at www.GlassSabine.com.

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This week's Open Home Guide starts on page B1



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<p>BERKELEY \$700,000</p> <p>BERKELEY FOURPLEX! Convenient location w/3 of 4 units VACANT! U-Chase! (rental!) 2 buildings w/ 2 units each. Appears sep. Gas! elec. Meters. Units show VERY WELL. Some recent work done. Good sized lot w/ off street parking! Call today on "Maggie's Choice!"</p>	<p>OAKLAND \$350,000</p> <p>A 4-PLEX For You! Opportunity Knocks Today! Near Home Depot. Needs TLC. 3 Units Vacant! Live in 1 unit and rent other 3 to help pay mortgage!!</p>	<p>RICHMOND \$220,000</p> <p>Check this one out - 2BD/1BA Circa 1912 Craftsman. Looks nice. Perfect for 1st timer! Call today on this cutie!!</p>	<p>BERKELEY \$475,000</p> <p>Circa 1903 Victorian TRIPLEX! 3 uppers and 2 studios down! Needs some TLC. Close to the Shops. Gourmet! Ghetto! ALL 3 units are VACANT!</p>
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<p>BERKELEY \$749,000</p> <p>6-Units in 2 Buildings. Nice unit mix. Good sized lot! Some separate utility meters. Nearby to Ashby BART & Berkeley's Historic Loma District. Call Today!</p>	<p>HAYWARD \$480,000</p> <p>4BD/3BA home, 2-car garage. Near BART shopping, schools. Approx. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home. Excellent! Call today!</p>
<p>BERKELEY \$540,000</p> <p>NORTH BERKELEY LIVE, INCOME TRIPLEX in two separate buildings. Prime location facing two streets. Duplex and detached cottage. Monterey Market. Acme Bakery, Westbrae, ideal deal for Owner occupants. Call today!</p>	<p>NORTH OAKLAND \$850,000</p> <p>Commercial w/ 4 retail stores, large corner of w/ high VISIBILITY & high TRAFFIC count! Currently, Cole-Cleaner - Beauty Salon - Computer. Plenty of off street parking. Call on this wonder!</p>

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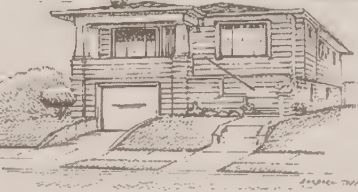
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OPEN 2-4:30	COMING SOON	BY APPOINTMENT	BY APPOINTMENT	BY APPOINTMENT
<p>60 ENTRADA AVENUE \$479,000</p> <p>Piedmont. Close to almost everything! Duplex near Piedmont Ave., two 1BD units, hardwood floors, single family home, possible re-conversion to single family home. Ample off-street parking.</p> <p>Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246</p>	<p>SUN DRENCHED MEDITERRANEAN</p> <p>Baja Piedmont Avenue. Delightful arches, updated kitchen & bathroom, gleaming hardwood floors & cozy low maintenance yard create a pleasant & relaxing ambiance. Located conveniently close to Piedmont Ave., shops, restaurants, cinema & spas.</p> <p>Heidi Tuggle 531-7000 x286</p>	<p>PRICE REDUCTION \$550,000</p> <p>North Oakland. Six unit Victorian. Owner may credit for new foundation.</p> <p>Anne Bruff 531-7006 x283</p>	<p>VICTORIAN CHARM & MODERN CONVENIENCE \$340,000</p> <p>North Oakland. Classic Victorian with many original features, stained glass windows, new hardwood floors. Three bedrooms, 2 full baths, modern kitchen Full basement w/development potential.</p> <p>Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246</p>	<p>COZY COTTAGE \$224,000</p> <p>Oakland. Affordable 2 bedroom starter with fridge, stove, washer and dryer. Indoor access to garage. Sunny backyard for roses and veggies.</p> <p>Don Dunning 531-7000 x239</p>
<p>BY APPOINTMENT</p> <p>PRICE REDUCED! \$1,295,000</p> <p>Piedmont. LOTS OF SPACE! 3+BD/3.5BA, huge rec. room. Family room, lovely living room & formal dining room, 2 fireplaces, decks, level yard, 2-car garage!</p> <p>Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242</p>	<p>TWO STORY COLONIAL \$625,000</p> <p>Montclair... with 3BD/1.5BA, gracious living room with fireplace, formal dining room, French doors & windows, hardwood floors, basement, 2-car garage workshop, nearly level lot.</p> <p>Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235</p>	<p>CHARMING 2BD-PANORAMIC BAY VIEW! \$359,000</p> <p>Maxwell Park. Gorgeous refinished hardwood flrs., updated eat-in kitchen, living room w/fireplace & picture window, lg basement for storage, garage converted to plus room (easy to convert back) & extra large yard!</p> <p>Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228</p>	<p>SUNNY, SPACIOUS UNIT \$325,000</p> <p>Chinatown. Over 1100 sq. ft. with walls of glass. Two king sized bedrooms, one and a half baths. Updated kitchen with gas stove.</p> <p>Nali Davis 531-7000 x263</p>	<p>A GREAT VIEW OF THE FIRE WORKS \$399,000</p> <p>Don't miss this! Beautiful Claremont Hills lot with a view of city & bay. Room enough for the home of your dreams.</p> <p>Heidi Kearsley 531-7000 x295</p>
<p>3763 RUBY STREET \$279,000</p> <p>Temescal. Funky, artsy 3BD in Temescal, attic with bonus loft area or storage, sunny eat-in kitchen, large basement & level yard, close to BART.</p> <p>Kate Phillips 531-7000 x228</p>	<p>MONTCLAIR'S SECRET \$599,000</p> <p>Oakland. Stroll across the footbridge over the babbling creek to discover this charming log cabin surrounded by trees and flowers. Built in 1918 as a hunting cabin, the owners have spent seven years meticulously remodeling, adding all the modern amenities, but retaining this sweet home's rustic charm.</p> <p>Nicolette Bol 531-7000 x261</p>	<p>LOOKING FOR A FIXER? \$360,000</p> <p>Millsmont. Needs some TLC. 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, living room with fireplace. Fantastic rear yard. South bay view. Reports available.</p> <p>Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235</p>	<p>SUNNY & BRIGHT \$289,000</p> <p>Adams Point. 2BD/1BA with tree view & overlooks the interior atrium. Spacious & has many closets, open floor plan, new appliances & many upgrades.</p> <p>Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238</p>	<p>START BUILDING NOW! \$389,000</p> <p>Montclair lot with approved plans and permit for 3,360 sq. ft. home with views. Lovely setting.</p> <p>Mary Neuberger 531-7000 x251</p>
<p>SPECTACULAR VIEWS \$295,000</p> <p>Build your home with marvelous San Francisco views! This downslope is double size & has soil report survey.</p> <p>Carol Rabbiano 531-7000 x292</p>	<p>MONTCLAIR BAY VIEW LOT \$159,000</p> <p>Development opportunity on Jewell Court. Easily accessible level area. Visit wellsandbennett.com for more information.</p> <p>Carol Rabbiano 531-7000 x292</p>	<p>BUY NOW...BUILD TOMORROW!!! \$50,000 & \$60,000</p> <p>Two upslope lots: side-by-side off Shepherd Canyon Rd. (across from 6565 & 6567 Girvin Dr.) Build your dream home. Buy one or both.</p> <p>Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000 x204</p>		

www.wellsandbennett.com

Communication paramount with today's buyers, sellers

■ Veteran sellers, buyers talk about working with real estate agents

BY MARY UMBERGER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
CHICAGO — Eight hundred thousand real estate agents. That, give or take a few, is how many are in the field today, according to the National Association of Realtors. How is a consumer to choose the one to work with?

The usual industry saw is to ask your friends for recommendations, which may be very good advice, according to a bunch of seasoned home buyers and sellers who responded to the Real Estate section's recent open call for readers to let us know what works, and what doesn't, in hiring agents. But they're adamant that there are plenty of other considerations.

Our group of consumers generally agreed that, beyond sales records and specialized training, the one thing that mattered most was rapport. "The ability to communicate" may be a business cliché, they said, but it's the bottom line. Without it, clients and agents alike end up frustrated and have to work harder than necessary to get the deal done.

"They have to get a feel for what you want, for what you do for a living. All of that comes into play," says Gwen Hudson, who, with her husband, Cornell, says they have "probably lost track" of the total number of sales they have been involved in through relocation and investments. But she estimates that they've owned 20 properties.

"If I tell you I'm looking for a house in this range, and these are the amenities I want, and this is the area that I want, then work with me there," says the suburban resident. "Don't try to show me the house I can't afford and then get frustrated with me because I can't afford it. I have run into that."

Jim Klick of Crest Hill, Ill., agreed. "They have to have a grasp of reality," says Klick, who adds that he and his wife, separately and together, have bought seven houses and sold six. To help buyers, "agents have to have a grasp of what you can afford" and respect it, he says.

But getting back to the starting point, our consumers don't argue with the time-honored notion of asking friends for recommendations.

"Generally, your friends share similar values and standards," explains Sid Chapon, a condo owner in Chicago who says that he would trust friends to be honest about an agent's strengths and weaknesses. It's something he failed to do either time he bought homes, and he says that if he were looking for an agent tomorrow, he'd ask a lot more questions than he did in those purchases.

"I used to live in Tulsa, Ok.," he explains. "I was a first-time buyer, right after college. I was inexperienced." And he says that even though he bought a property, in hindsight he believes his agent failed him. "I didn't know what I needed to do. She didn't provide me with any coaching or counseling. She didn't tell me what to look out for."

Chapon says he looked at a total of one unit and made an offer at full asking price, "which, of course, was accepted. She never showed me anything else to look at. Part of that was my responsibility, of course, but I think a real estate agent ought to show you what else you can get for your money. I was young and stupid. At the end of the day, what I bought was a property that had major issues in terms of construction,

I don't want fluffy, colorful brochures. I don't want to look at a resume. I am going to ask: 'How long have you been selling, what have your results been in the last year, how many have you listed, how many have you sold, how many have expired, how many are in the neighborhood that I am in?'

Cornell Hudson

tion, and the condo association was financially not in good condition."

At the other end of the spectrum, we heard from west suburbanites Pam and Jim Jannece, whose first buying experience — like Chapon, they were right out of school, with not much money — is remembered kindly.

"Our real estate agent spent just about every weekend for a year looking for a house for us," Pam recalls. "She was just determined. She was patient, and we never felt like she was trying to push us."

But the agent went above and beyond the call when the Janneces sat down at the closing table to buy the house. As sometimes happens at closings, a dispute arose, and the sellers weren't budging. The Janneces, who were strained to afford the house as it was, said they just couldn't come up with the additional money that would resolve the dispute and close the deal.

"She got her boss at the real estate agency to make us a loan," Pam recalls of her agent. "It wasn't a lot, but it was enough to get us through the deal. Otherwise, we were about at the end of our looking. We said, if we don't get this, that's it."

George Tenne has similar good things to say about his experience six years ago when he moved from St. Louis to Chicago. Like most transferees, he was uncertain about which part of the area he'd like to live in. He did a lot of Internet research, picked out some general areas that attracted him, and then picked out three agents — two chosen from details on their Web sites, one from a personal recommendation. He worked with them simultaneously, an arrangement that would make most other agents' hair stand on end.

"Each of them knew that I was working with others," Tenne recalls, explaining that this act "sort of set up a race between them." But he felt he had to seek out "regional" experts because he was unsure where he wanted to buy. It was a good move, he says, because the wide exposure influenced him to buy a suburban house instead of a city condo, his original intent.

"I did send a personal check to each of the other two agents [who received no commission for their work] for a first-class dinner for them and some friends for all the work they did for me," Tenne said. "They were very surprised. They really did earn it."

Tenne said his realty experiences in St. Louis were not always so amicable. "Be very honest with the agents," he advises. "If you find yourself debating [with them] about every property, get out of this kind of relationship. You will save yourself and the agent a lot of wasted time."

When the Janneces sold one house, they thought they had found a winner when their research turned up the name of a

top agent, at least statistically. "It turns out he was the 'top agent' because he got the most listings," Jim recalls. "After that, he never did a thing."

For reasons that elude them today, the Janneces stayed with this agent, though it was an unhappy relationship. They recall feeling pressured to take offers that were too low. "You just don't know if you're going to get another offer," Pam recalls him saying.

And then there was the open house. The Janneces got ready for the open house and cleared out for the day.

"He never actually showed up himself," Jim says of his listing agent. "Then he bragged about how clean he kept it. The neighbors told us there wasn't a single car there all day."

The Hudsons said that the more they've bought and sold houses, the more questions they ask and upfront understandings they insist on getting.

"I never take more than a three-month listing," Cornell Hudson says, though he adds that if the house hasn't sold but the



STEVE LASKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WORKING THE FIELD: George and Elaine Tenne, shown in May 2003 in Glenn Ellyn, Illinois, with three real estate agents before deciding where and what to build.

agent is making a strong effort, he'll extend it. And he says he'll sweeten the commission with a bonus for a quick sale.

The Hudsons ask for credentials. "I don't want fluffy, colorful brochures," Cornell says. "I don't want to look at a resume. I am going to ask: 'How long have you been selling, what have your results been in the last year, how many have you listed, how many have you sold, how many are in the neighborhood that I am in?'" He said occasionally agents have been reluctant to provide the data, and so he says thanks and goodbye.

"I want to know: Have you had success in this price range? What can I expect from you, in what kind of time frame? What do you

need from me?" such as cooperation in changing features or colors to make the house sell better.

The Hudsons ask listing agents for a game plan. "I would ask things like, when are you going to have your ads, how many times, how many open houses, when are the open houses?" Cornell explains.

Cornell says that such a plan has been particularly important when a job transfer has caused him and his wife to move before the house has sold. "I asked [the agents] for feedback. I told them I wanted a copy of the ads, to cut it out of the newspaper and send me a copy of it," he explains. He asks for copies of the sign-in sheets from open houses.

When he sold his house in Las Vegas, "I'd get mail once a week

(Some agents are) working just for a commission, they're not interested in establishing a relationship, and they're the ones that you have to out best for me."

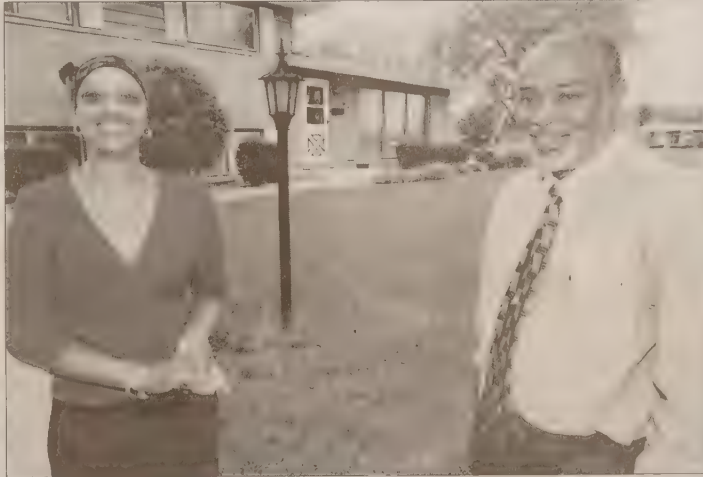
from the agent. He'd send a list of showings and what the comments were. He'd follow up with other agents after the closings." He understands that other agents have the resources to seek the feedback, but not that those who have assisted work with teams of other agents generally can do it.

Agents commonly prepare "comps," or comparative analyses, of recent sales of similar houses, to show sellers they arrived at a suggested price. The Janneces say not to be sure to get the comps also scrutinize them.

"Our experience is that some of them have been totally off the wall," Jim says. "When we sold our little ranch house, they [comparing it] with houses in the next subdivision over. In square feet, they were twice the size of our ranch, twice what our house was worth."

Many real estate companies now offer "one-stop shopping" providing referrals or the services themselves for such things as

See EXPERIENCES PAGE 10



WARREN SKALKS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

SAVVY COUPLE: Gwen and Cornell Hudson, shown in May 2003 in Chicago Heights, Illinois, have a lot of experience dealing with real estate agents. Because of job transfers and investments, they have bought and sold about 20 properties

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1830 Carleton Street, Berkeley

Have the best of both worlds in this 1906 cottage with its wiring for computer networking. 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath. Formal dining room. Open sunny spaces for entertaining. Pretty yard and deck. Maple wood floors. Only 6 blocks to BART. New foundation, new electrical, fresh interior paint. Charming!

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This large three bedroom, two bath Craftsman home offers classic style you would expect plus a new family room addition with permits. The formal dining room, new roof, hardwood floors and large lot are also special features.

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Level out to patio and garden from ballroom/family rm, from dining & kitchen. Not a drive-by, interior has wonderful character. See on Internet virtual tour...Realtor.com

Offered at \$945,000
Edward Bell Realty 510-339-9398

Senzig

RE PAGE B4

1) The most common and one of the most injurious problems when a borrower applies for a mortgage loan is a late payment on a rent mortgage. Although if it looks like an aberration, this can be a easy one.

As you know, lenders sell qualified loans, sometimes even before you make your first payment. If your lender sells your note, remember, nothing about your loan changes except where you send your payment. Often, you are notified of the new servicer after you mailed your payment. By the time your payment is forwarded through the mail and accepted, you could be 30 days late.

This happened so much when Washington Mutual was acquiring other banks in the mid to late '90s that Great Western Bank, American Savings and Home Savings to mention a few, that legislation was passed that prohibits a lender from reporting a late payment for at least 60 days after taking over the servicing of the loan. So, if this happens to you, contact the servicer of the note and demand that they remove the derogatory entry on your credit report.

2) Family emergencies are reasons lenders may accept. Any credit person or institution understands the emotional trauma one experiences when a loved one is in the hospital, or a parent, spouse, child or a close family relative dies. Lenders are human too (although not as human as you) and if their track record may challenge that and if properly documented will forgive late payments when emotionally moved.

3) Vacations are a favorite of mine, especially if we are dealing with one or two late payments close together. Every body gets busy trying to get the family out and on the road. The payment statement may have arrived the day after the family left and in all the confusion was missed until the family returned from vacation.

4) Another favorite excuse is "We moved and sent the lender our new address, but the statement was insistently lost in the mail." This will work for one or two late payments, but remember that even if you do not receive a payment statement, you are still responsible for making that payment.

5) That brings us to one of the most bizarre claims but surprisingly not that uncommon. "My neighbor is stealing my mail" or "Although I put a forward request with the Post Office, the mail person can't seem to deliver my mail to me." Again, let me remind you that this excuse works for one or two late payments, but if you are not receiving your payment notices, you should be contacting the creditor directly. This is also a good argument for paying your bills on-line.

6) Doctors and harried professionals have an added advantage of working a bizillion hours per week. We have found that most lenders understand that when a young resident doctor, 2 years ago, was too exhausted to care about paying their bills on time, especially if his or her credit had been perfect since.

Doctors (as well as attorneys and other professionals) have the potential ability to make a whole lot of money and lenders like them for that reason.

7) Unfortunately, divorce plays a big part in the mortgage business. We have been reading divorce and separation settlement agreements long enough to solve any problems we ever had in our marriage. The stories... one partner escapes with the credit cards or promises to make the mortgage payment or tries to mortgage the property, are

much too common. The stories are endless and someday may make a great book. If we can document the errant spouse's misuse of community property, we can make a strong claim for our borrower.

8) People who are juniors, I'll or IV's after their names and beyond share a problem with people with common names like Smith and Jones. They may have credit problems that follow them that isn't theirs. It often takes a bit of research, but these issues can be resolved.

We have always found that the truth works better than fiction as long as it is properly presented. However, the one excuse a lender never wants to hear is that you simply forgot to make a payment or that you did not have the money to make the payment.

Now, we don't advocate lying, but there is an argument for stretching the truth, especially when it comes to cleaning up your credit.

Removing an incorrect credit entry on your credit report involves a vigorous letter writing campaign, especially if you do it your self. You

must contact the three credit bureaus with your documentation: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion and then follow up every two weeks by phone or their Web sites until the items have been removed.

Some lenders have instituted CBU (Credit Bureau Update)—that helps you achieve this through the process of purchasing and refinancing. Which ever way you clean up your credit, it's all part of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband Scott. Contact her with any mortgage questions at 510-339-8511, Fax: 510-339-3813 or E-mail Ksenzig@aol.com.

DON'T MISS THE OPEN HOME GUIDE ON B12.

OPEN SUN 2-4:30



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Offered at \$975,000



Dian Hymer, CRS

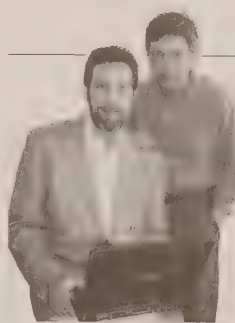
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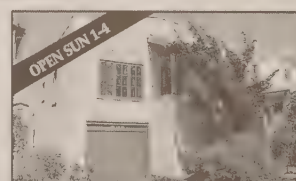
MONTCLAIR \$1,175,000
1 Las Flores Ct.
Flair for the Arts & Crafts period in this gorgeous newly completed home. Gourmet cook's kitchen with top appliances, granite & limestone. Open floor plan with central 2-story atrium. 3 bedrooms, den, library & office, 3 bathrooms. DIONE COTA



OAKMORE \$820,000
4046 Oakmore Rd.
Pleasant tree-lined street and lovely English architecture all capped with a great remodeled kitchen! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, huge family room. Soaring ceiling in living room, formal dining room. Outdoor spa! HELEN NICHOLAS



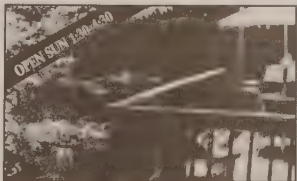
DIMOND \$215,000
2901 MacArthur #204
First time open! This one bedroom, one bath condo in well-maintained building is light and airy with a deck off the living room. Amenities include a central garden court and secure parking. Convenient to shopping and transportation. TOM ERWIN



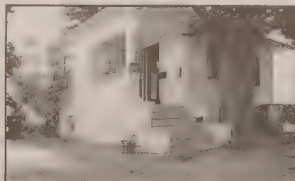
ALBANY \$449,000
935 Evelyn Drive
Delightful Mediterranean home just steps away from Solano Avenue, community center and school. Pleasant yard off family room, spacious updated kitchen, dining area built-ins, fireplace, hardwood floors. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. JODY DWORZAK



HILLER HIGHLANDS \$695,000
11 Spyglass Hill
Coming Soon! This elegant 3 plus bedroom, 2.5 bath townhome has been meticulously maintained. SF Bay views, vaulted ceilings & hardwood floors. Approx. 2,023 sq. ft. end unit with huge common area garden. Extra large front & rear decks. GAYLE TANTAU



MONTCLAIR \$529,000
7134 Saroni Drive
New listing! Sunny and private 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, with family room or home office. Brick fireplace, deck, hot tub, swimming pool, skylights, gas kitchen, private view decks, fenced yard for pets. KATE CASTLE



BERKELEY \$350,000
737 Neilson
Wonderful opportunity to own this cutie. Your TLC will bring you many years of joy. 2+ bedrooms, one bath, nice back yard. Near Solano Avenue & schools. Very special neighborhood. CINDY BOZE



LAKE MERRITT \$599,000
200 Lakeside Dr. #802
Stunning views from every room of this two bedroom, two bath condo on the top floor of The Regillus. Amenities include massive wood-burning fireplace, 10' ceilings, a newly renovated kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters and stainless steel appliances. TOM ERWIN

177 19th St. #6D
LAKE MERRITT \$365,000
This 1,600 sq. ft. 2 bedroom, 2 bath co-op has a view of Lake Merritt and the East Bay Hills. Amenities include parquet floors, wooden shutters, an upgraded kitchen and a west-facing deck off the living room and 24-hour doorman service. By appointment only. TOM ERWIN

6363 Christie
PACIFIC PARK PLAZA \$330,000
Luxury Emeryville High-rise. Panoramic Marin & North Bay views. Spacious 1 bedroom unit with full amenities - 24 hour front door security, pool, tennis, fitness center, EZ commute, walk to shops, movies, restaurants. LOIS JOHNSON

1416 Everett St.
EL CERRITO \$329,950
All you need is food and to transfer utilities. Two bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, new appliances, freshly painted interior, convenient location to BART, freeway access. NICK LAVROV

10 Chatsworth Ct.
MONTCLAIR \$879,000
Impeccably maintained, four bedrooms, three baths. Large living/dining combination with fireplace. Sunny throughout. Beautifully landscaped gardens. Bay views. ANDREA GORDON

282 Whitmore St.
ROCKRIDGE/PIEDMONT AVE. \$700,000
CONDO COVE - Could be the name for YOUR eleven unit development on prime R-70 lot in secluded but "urban" convenient "pocket." Adjacent and/or near shopping, SF bus, BART, dining, theater. Great income from two old existing rentals during planning stages. Call listing agent for details. D.C. HODGES

2601 College Ave.
SOUTH UC CAMPUS \$329,000
One bedroom, one bath condo in very popular Mark Twain building near UC. Easy walk to campus & Elmwood shopping. Golden Gate/Bay views from top floor. TRACY BRONSON

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Taking a look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Park Party?

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the Alameda Association of Realtors. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 8 at the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. This month's speakers are from Alameda Rec & Park and East Bay Regional Parks. **Suzanne Ota** and **Anne Rockwell** will tell about summertime fun in the parks. Agents are encouraged to bring information on new listings. For more information contact **Remy Boyd** of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Free Answers To Home Buying

Learn the answers to many home buying questions at "The Home Buying Answers Class." This free class is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9. Senior Loan Consultant **Margie Lupo** of Vintage Mortgage conducts the class. To pre-register, call the "Answers Class" hotline at 888-629-0077 ext. 6610.

Tax Help

The self-employed and independent contractors learn how to take every business deduction, reduce your chance of audit and use new tax laws to save taxes. Attend "Basic Tax and Record Keeping Information for Self-Employed People" on Saturday July 12, in Montclair. The class is taught by Montclair tax professional **Jan Zobel EA**. For more information call EastHill Press at 510-530-5474.

House Beautiful

Every house can be beautiful. BerkeleyHome Real Estate wants to help you make yours even more beautiful. On alternate Saturdays through August, a speaker series is offered. Home design professionals will discuss their work and answer questions. Author **Jane Powell** is the presenter on Saturday, July 12. Powell discusses renovating bungalows. To RSVP, call **Catherine Stern** of BerkeleyHome Real Estate at 510-524-5406.

One Stop Service

Consumers can get one-stop service on the Prudential California Realty Web site. You can be pre-approved for a loan, obtain relocation help and get selling tips. Check it out at www.prweb.com.

WCR DINNER/THEATRE

The Women's Council of Realtors East Bay Chapter presents

the Fourth Annual Theatre Under The Stars, Friday, July 11. Enjoy dinner, wine and Kiss Me Kate at the Woodminster Amphitheatre. Reserve tickets before they sell out. Contact evening sponsors **Dagmar Satteria** of American Home Shield or **Denise Sonnier** of Home Equity Link 510-521-7844. For information on joining WCR contact WCR President, **Patricia Bouie Hinds** of Classic Investments at 510-834-0702 or bouiehinds@sbcglobal.net.

COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, July 10, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

SPORTS CHALLENGE 2003

There's something for everyone at the Sports Challenge 2003. Even for the "unsportsmanlike." This multi-faceted event is supported by Alameda County Realtors and Affiliates and benefits Special Olympics. For the athletic challenges there is the Golf Event, at the Chuck Corica Golf Complex and the Tennis Event, at the Harbor Bay Club. For those not so inclined, attend the Un-Event and pamper yourself at the Harbor Bay Club. Each event includes lunch (admittance to lunch can be purchased separately). There are awards, an auction and a raffle. All events are Thursday, Aug. 15. Be sure to register early. For more information and registration forms call 510-553-0280 ext. 25.

RENTAL HOUSING

The Rental Housing Association of Northern Alameda County offers a membership meeting monthly. Non-members are also invited to attend. The next meeting is at 6:45 p.m., Thursday, July 17. The meeting is held at the Greek Orthodox Church, on Lincoln Avenue, in Oakland. For information and registration call the RHANAC office at 510-893-9873.

NAR DSL

The National Association of Realtors named Covad Communications a Realtor VIP Alliance program partner. Covad is a national broadband service provider of high-speed Internet and network



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PCR EXHIBIT

The Claremont office of Prudential California Realty is hosting an art exhibit for the Junior Center of Art and Science, now through July 31. Works by present and former students are on exhibit at the PCR Tunnel Road office in Berkeley. The public is invited to stop-in and view the children's artworks. The center annually serves over 35,000 students from preschool on. For directions call 510-845-0211.

BROKER'S LICENSE

New state regulations now make it faster and easier to get a broker license. Attendees will learn changes and revisions, math shortcuts and test tips. Receive live class test preparation with instructor **Minnie Lush**. For more information call Executive Programs at 1-800-416-1996.

"e-BUYER" COURSE

The Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council of the National Association of Realtors is offering an elective course. The course called "e-Buyer" is designed to help take the next step after mastering computer and Internet basics. REBAC is the awarding body for the ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative) and ABRM (Accredited Buyer's Representative Manager) designations. To learn more about this six hour course and ABRM designations call 800-648-6224 or visit www.rebac.net.

WHAT'S UP DOC?

Tell me about it! Fundraisers, meetings, workshops, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). Deadline is two weeks before the event. Send an e-mail to bobbieid@mind-spring.com. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191. Call me at 510-441-7190.

Planning your financing ahead is important

■ Pre-approval can help buyers save time, avoid pitfalls

BY BEV MUNCER
CO.-DWELL BANKER

Buying your first house or moving up to your dream home can truly be... well, a dream come true. But the process can also be a bit overwhelming, even if you've been through it several times before.

From finding the right house to negotiating a sale price to securing a mortgage loan, buying a home can be time-consuming and stressful.

But one way to smooth out the bumpy road to home ownership is to nail down your mortgage before you start shopping for a home rather than after. By being pre-approved for a loan before you head out for your first open house you can greatly simplify the buying process and avoid some pitfalls down the road. Plus, as a pre-approved buyer, you are in effect becoming a cash buyer.

Mortgage interest rates are at historic lows. Not since President Kennedy was in the White House have we seen a fixed-rate mortgage under 6 percent. Low rates have greatly increased the home purchasing power of buyers and helped to fuel our robust housing market. But even with today's lower rates the importance of pre-approval for a mortgage is as important as ever.

Pre-approval establishes how much house your budget can afford, or more specifically how much of a monthly mortgage payment you can afford. This allows you to narrow the house hunt to an appropriate and pre-established price range. Why waste

your time looking at \$750,000 homes when you can realistically only afford a \$500,000? Or conversely, why limit yourself to a fixer-upper when you can comfortably buy a move-up home. It pays to know in advance.

By being pre-approved for a mortgage you also let sellers know that you're a serious buyer, one that isn't likely to back out of a deal because you can't get a loan. This is particularly important in a hot housing market when sellers are choosing between

at their jobs, how much money they have in the bank and whether they are carrying. They are asked if it's ok to do a check, which gives lenders a clearer picture of their financial standing. Buyers whose credit record is below par will learn they can clear it up before a loan approval.

No matter what you do, a home is a big decision—often an emotional one. But spending upfront pre-approving mortgage loan can save you

The process of securing a loan can have its share of hurdles for buyers. Pre-approval gives mortgage lenders a chance to sort through issues and any credit problems before they can hold up the home purchase.

multiple offers. The buyer with a pre-qualification letter stands out from the crowd.

The process of securing a loan can have its share of hurdles for buyers. Pre-approval gives mortgage lenders a chance to sort through issues and any credit problems before they can hold up the home purchase.

In some cases, there may be questions around qualification and income documentation, particularly for self-employed buyers. In other cases, a credit check could turn up some issues that buyers weren't aware of. By starting the loan process early, you avoid having to scramble at the last minute should any problem arise.

Some companies, including our own mortgage banker, Coldwell Banker Mortgage, developed processes that make getting pre-approved fast and easy. The process is relatively painless. Buyers are asked what their income is, including salary and bonuses, how long they've worked

land-Piedmont office, provide tips.

A 21-year Bay Area real estate veteran, Bev oversees a team of 34 real estate professionals at 6137 La Salle Ave. in Oakland. She can be reached at 339-4747 or by e-mail at bmuncer@cbnocal.com.

House hunting? The Open House Guide starts B12.

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9421 EMPIRE RD., OAKLAND.
NEW ON THE MARKET! 3 bedrooms. 1 bath single story home. \$249,500. For further information, call Bill Bissett, your 24 hour realtor working for you, 510-748-1108.

2043 - 18th AVE., OAKLAND.
EAST OAKLAND. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with hardwood floors, large eat-in kitchen and 1 car garage. \$339,500. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

2334 E. 15th ST., OAKLAND. 8 UNITS. All 1 bedroom units each separately metered for gas & electric and 8 assigned parking spaces. Lots of potential. \$600,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620.

MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE IN CLAYTON. Enjoy your summer by the sparkling pool or spa in the quiet foothills of Mt. Diablo. All open space across from this beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with manicured yards. \$715,000. Shown only by appointment with Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101.

16284 ASHLAND AVE., SAN LORENZO. RIGHT NEXT TO A PARK! This home has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, beautiful tile in dining room & hallway, updated kitchen, laundry room & security system. Large front & back yards, close to school, BART, shopping & transportation. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

2621 WOODSIDE CT., PINOY. NICE PROPERTY IN A CUL-DE-SAC. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in a great neighborhood and a view of the bay. Formal dining room, bonus-plus deck in backyard. \$449,000. Perla Ordinario, 510-748-1114.

1639 63rd ST., BERKELEY. PRICE REDUCTION. CHARMING VICTORIAN. 3 bedroom home with full basement on large lot plus 3 bedroom rear home. Small studio garages, all for \$640,000. Mary Herber, 800-523-9424.

3276 ROUND HILL DR., HAYWARD. GREAT VALUE. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. 2 story home with lots of living space. Large deck overlooking yard, balconies, formal living & dining areas, fireplace, family room. Perfect for indoor entertaining. 2 car garage. \$599,000. Moon Tam, 510-747-1620

1900 WESTERN DR. #4-39. RICHMOND. GREAT FLOORING. HOME. Located in the Point San Yacht Harbor, this floor home has 1 bedroom, 1 bath, wonderful view, flexible space. \$135,000. David McIntyre, 510-748-1111.

300 CHANNEL ST., SAN FRANCISCO. GREAT FLOORING. HOME. Mission Bay area. 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, laundry. Wonderful views, walk to Packard. \$449,000 + monthly berth rent. McIntyre, 510-748-1111. TheMcIntyres.org

SALES - RESIDENTIAL - INCOME - COMMERCIAL
INVESTMENT - RENTALS - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Sales@AlamedaRealEstate.com GallagherandLindsay.com

WEEKLY SALES

MEDIA

70 Broadway - \$594,000
 5 Central Av - \$695,000
 1 Central Av - \$438,000
 35 Crown Dr - \$420,000
 17 Eastshore Dr - \$572,500
 30 Enchinal Av - \$468,000
 4 Tronwood Rd - \$545,000
 17 Nason St - \$420,000
 3 Paru St - \$805,000
 2 Sheffield Rd - \$607,000
 36 Solomon Ln - \$452,000
 6 Webster C107 - \$181,000
 1 Webster E201 - \$285,000
 0 Yale Dr - \$635,000

NY

81 Evelyn Av - \$509,000
 5 Pierce 110 - \$339,000
 2 Pierce 1101 - \$345,000
 2 Talbot Av - \$465,000

RELEY

12 62nd St - \$407,500
 06 Chestnut St - \$352,000
 1 Dana St #9 - \$379,000
 2 Glen Av - \$712,500
 6 Milvia St - \$450,000
 6 Neilson St - \$485,000
 4 Spruce St - \$673,000
 6 Russell St - \$950,000
 2 Summit Rd - \$670,000
 6 Vine St - \$702,000

SPRITO

0 Carlson Bl - \$350,000
 21 Elm St - \$294,000
 48 Fern St - \$515,000
 89 Lassen St - \$329,000
 0 Pomona Av - \$568,000

EL SOBRANTE

5043 Hilltop Dr - \$225,000
 589 Kister Cr - \$430,500
 757 La Paloma Rd - \$245,000
 5029 SP Dam RdB - \$225,000

EMERYVILLE

5855 Horton 614 - \$230,500
 106 Temescal Cr - \$245,000
 35 Temescal Cr - \$270,000

OAKLAND

304 105th Av - \$215,000
 328 105th Av - \$229,000
 1801 108th Av - \$361,000
 2421 108th Av - \$282,000
 750 12th St - \$370,000
 1529 39th Av - \$265,000
 443 51st St - \$365,000
 664 54th St - \$365,000
 1157 55th St - \$320,000
 747 61st St - \$603,000
 1809 64th Av - \$240,000
 1701 64th Av - \$355,000
 1424 65th Av - \$305,000
 1623 70th Av - \$500,000
 2655 74th Av - \$285,000
 1475 77th Av - \$255,000
 1502 79th Av - \$235,000
 1648 87th Av - \$206,000
 1725 96th Av - \$353,000
 729 Aileen St - \$500,000
 4000 Aqua Vista - \$327,000
 1370 Barrows - \$565,000
 4659 Benevides - \$560,000
 2736 Best Av - \$375,000
 5415 Brann St - \$449,000
 13049 B'way Tr - \$557,000
 220 Caldecott 211 - \$380,000
 260 Caldecott 217 - \$862,500
 1221 Campbell St - \$385,000

1324 Campbell St - \$232,000
 5957 Canning - \$426,000
 2467 Casa Ct - \$235,000
 2487 Casa Ct - \$185,000
 1301 Center St - \$355,000
 740 Clara St - \$489,000
 35 Contra Costa - \$868,000
 9757 Coral Rd - \$250,000
 1138 Drury Rd - \$1,410,000
 1201 East 17th St - \$250,000
 2931 East 17th St - \$220,000
 2223 East 23rd St - \$630,000
 2121 East 25th St - \$90,000
 2220 East 25th St - \$215,000
 2431 East 28th St - \$310,000
 5545 Fernhoff - \$1,080,000
 2429 Foothill Bl - \$300,000
 988 Franklin 1001 - \$350,000
 1037 Galvin St - \$500,000
 2220 Gleason Wy - \$298,500
 91 Glen Av - \$798,500
 5435 Golden Gate - \$1,141,000
 1830 Grand View - \$850,000
 422 Haddon Rd - \$482,000
 5711 Harbord Dr - \$725,000
 7326 Holly St - \$165,000
 2349 Hughes Av - \$458,000
 551 Jean St 213 - \$290,000
 4316 La Cresta Av - \$600,000
 3907 Laguna Av - \$362,000
 8300 MacArthur Bl - \$615,000
 3388 Madera Av - \$391,000
 228 Makin Rd - \$240,000
 796 Mardana Bl - \$525,000
 3725 Maybelle Av - \$385,000
 6150 Monadnock - \$300,000

240 Monte Vista Av - \$570,000
 245 Montecito 102 - \$199,000
 117 Mountain Valley - \$455,000
 10464 Nattress Wy - \$225,000
 10488 Nattress Wy - \$242,500
 311 Oak St 324 - \$478,000
 604 Panoramic Wy - \$831,000

2529 Parker Av - \$300,000
 1144 Peralta St - \$475,000
 3536 Randolph Av - \$555,000
 3543 Redwood Rd - \$480,000
 4632 Redwood Rd - \$535,000

See SALES, Page B10

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1 Bedroom - 1 Bath
A Manhattan style loft with many classy upgrades including black granite and cherry cabinets in the kitchen and limestone in the bathroom. This authentic live-work space has many beautiful details including original 1-beams. Private roof deck for outdoor relaxation. Just a few blocks from highway access and Emeryville shopping. Secure parking included.

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Sales

FROM PAGE B9

3830 Rhoda Av - \$487,000
3897 Rhoda Av - \$350,000
1137 Seminary - \$230,000
1326 Seminary - \$369,000
8930 Seneca St - \$350,000
107 Starview Ct - \$780,000
2650 Sunset Av - \$405,000
2653 Sunset Av - \$290,000
2509 Taylor Av - \$307,000
6801 Thornhill - \$500,000
1642 Tucker St - \$395,500
2119 Vicksburg - \$305,000
762 Walker Av - \$765,000
10218 Walnut St - \$170,000
4101 West St - \$350,000
3916 Whittle Av - \$315,000

324 Hillside Av - \$1,148,000
221 Palm Dr - \$997,000
227 Palm Dr - \$825,500

By the numbers

ALAMEDA:
TOTAL SALES: 14
LOWEST PRICE: \$181,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$805,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$508,393

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 4

See SALES, Page B14

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2 New Listings



Bright & Airy

#269 - Gorgeous Bay View. Cute Bungalow in desirable Richmond view area. Huge corner lot with lots of privacy. Lots of potential, 2Bd/1Ba, 1 car garage, close to schools. \$310,000



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#287 - Beautifully maintained & decorated. Bright country kitchen, wood & tile floors. Parklike yards & mature landscaping. Sliders to gorgeous wrap around deck. Prime location, near shopping, school & transportation. \$385,000

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A Particularly Lovely House in the Elmwood

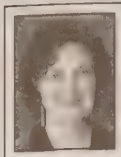
Open House
Sunday, July 6th,
2-4:30 pm

Beautiful remodeled Arts & Crafts house with many fine details. Box beams, wainscoting, gorgeous windows, hardwood floors with inlay and spacious living and dining rooms, both with fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, backyard with majestic redwood tree & a 2 car garage. Close to College Ave., the Claremont Hotel & Spa, Rockridge BART, U.C. & Tilden Park.

Offered at \$985,000



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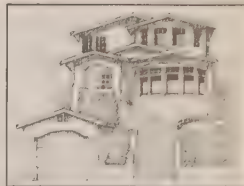
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1027 Peralta
Albany

Offered at \$729,000

Open Sunday
July 6th, 2-4 PM



At last, the spacious Albany home you've been waiting for! Quiet street, great location. Architect-designed addition includes dramatic master suite with view. Remodeled kitchen flows to a large family room with access to a pleasant level back yard



Photos and more at www.bobblumberg.com

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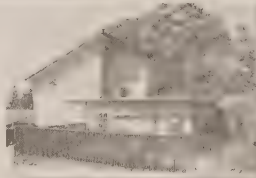
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Homes Open Sunday

July 6th, 2003



ALBANY - NEW LISTING! \$729,000
5/3 - Quiet street, great location. Architect-designed addition includes dramatic master suite with view. Photos & more information @ www.bobblumberg.com
1027 Peralta Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$749,000
3/2 - Quiet serenity & beauty awaits you in this stunning contemporary near Tilden Park. Architect designed. Mt. Tam views. Photos & more @ www.bobblumberg.com
561 Vismont Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$389,000
2/1 - Very charming brown shingle cottage located in the heart of Berkeley. Open floorplan. Expansive garden with sunny deck. Easy access to shops, UC & BART.
2241 Jefferson Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$618,000
2+1/5 - Stylish and dramatic! Near Monterey Market. Custom designed kitchen with vaulted ceilings leads to large, sunny deck and yard
1348 Sacramento Open 2-4:30



ALBANY \$549,000
3/1.25 - Charming 1926 split-level home. Sunny eat-in kitchen. Garage and workshop. Enclosed patio and hot tub. Close to Solano Avenue shops and restaurants
709 Santa Fe Avenue Open 1-4



BERKELEY - NEW LISTING! \$695,000
3/2.5 - Two-story traditional with hardwood floors and dining room. French doors lead to a large yard. 2-car garage. Golden Gate and Bay views!
2200 Marin Avenue Open 1-4



BERKELEY \$489,000
2+1/1 - Wonderful, cozy treehouse with Bay views. Downstairs is a separate studio space with full bath, deck & private entrance. Close to parks, UC & shops
1128 Euclid Avenue Open 1-4



OAKLAND - NEW LISTING! \$359,000
2/1 - Charming and sunny with panoramic views. A great starter home on a huge lot. Hardwood floors. Eat-in kitchen. Move in condition. Must see!
7600 Sunkist Drive Open 1-4



RICHMOND \$419,000
2+1/2 - Fabulous cottage in Richmond View. Great indoor/outdoor living. Updated kitchen and baths. Private yard with hot tub. Near Wildcat Canyon.
6635 Richmond Avenue Open 1-4



BERKELEY \$949,000
3/2 - Unique Contemporary with spectacular panoramic Bay views from every window. Serene garden settings. Close to UC Berkeley & Gourmet Ghetto.
987 Euclid Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$299,000
3/2.5 - Spacious and charming on a quiet street, needs your love. Built-ins, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, central heat. Family room leads to private yard with fruit trees.
1332 67th Street Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$379,000
2/1 - Lovely bungalow with Craftsman details and refinished floors throughout. Fully equipped kitchen with gas stove. Finished basement with bath & kitchen
370 Oakland Avenue Open 2-4

OAKLAND/GLENVIEW - NEW LISTING! \$379,000
2/1 - Plus space bungalow with period details on a great street in a prime neighborhood.
3914 Woodruff Avenue Open 2-4:30

By Appointment

POINT RICHMOND \$1,500,000
Investment Opportunity! - Five stylish townhome-style units, each with 2 bedrooms & 2 baths, attached garage, views, decks, vaulted ceilings.

RICHMOND N & E \$389,000
DUPLEX - Charming and affordable home with a rental unit. Front unit is 2/1 with fireplace, rear unit is 1/1. Both have double garage and a private backyard.

EL CERRITO \$549,000
3+1/2 - Quiet Contemporary level-in with views. Lots of upgrades. 2-car garage & fenced backyard. Kensington schools.

EL CERRITO \$489,000
5/2 - Large family home. Moments from EC Plaza, BART. It just glows! Remodeled kitchen & baths, great indoor/outdoor living off the kitchen/family room.

KENSINGTON \$649,000
3/1 - Stunning remodel plus separate au pair with private entrance. Nearly 9,000 sq.ft., "user friendly" lot, Golden Gate views, large deck, new systems.

BERKELEY \$825,000
3/3.5 - Extraordinary 1920s Mediterranean with exquisite details. First time on the market in nearly half a century. High ceilings, family room, garden.

BERKELEY \$699,000
4/4 - Architect designed remodel with gourmet kitchen, all new appliances, new plumbing, electrical, and new roof.

BERKELEY \$585,000
3+1/5 - Tudor on a quiet N. Berkeley cul-de-sac. Filtered Bay and City views. Updated kitchen, fireplace, hardwood floors, sunny decks, and private yard.

OAKLAND \$599,000
4/2.5 - Secluded haven amongst trees & lush terraced gardens. Large decks & brick patios. Hardwood floors, vaulted beam ceilings, upgrades galore!

NORTH OAKLAND \$479,000
3+1/5 - Beauty in Idora Park neighborhood. Spacious with original details, formal dining room, fireplace and family room. Large yard, attached garage. Good location.

OAKLAND \$359,000
2/1.5 - Large 2-story remodeled penthouse condo with panoramic floor to ceiling Bay views. 2 garage spaces.

OAKLAND \$219,000
1/1 - Spacious unit located in a great building. Pool, sauna, rec & workout rooms. Dishwasher, refrigerator, stove included. New carpets, paint throughout.

OAKLAND \$829,000
3+2/5 - Stylish, sophisticated townhome with mesmerizing views from decks on both levels. Dramatic living room, Tuscan atrium, wine cellar, jacuzzi

OAKLAND \$599,000
3/2.5 - Sunny & bright, jazzy Montclair Contemporary. New hardwood floors, fresh decoration, gorgeous remodeled kitchen and more!

OAKLAND \$319,000
LOFT - Designer loft with stunning finishes, gourmet kitchen and more! Info/photos at www.saragarabedian.com

ALAMEDA \$599,000
4/2 - Spacious home with great views, close to beach. Beautiful hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, large 2-car garage. Move-in condition!

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2 - 4:30pm

\$635,000

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5658 Ocean View Dr., Oakland

Imagine abundant parking just above College Ave.!


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Charming Fourplex BY APPOINTMENT



810-16 Erie Street, Oakland

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Offered at \$799,000

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\$237,500 461 A Central Ave Studio/1BD Open Sat & Sun 2-4 Gallagher & Lindsey Signe Nelson	\$449,000 935 Evelyn Avenue 2+BD/1+BA Open Sun. 1-4 510-339-6160 x299 C21 Heritage Real Estate Jody Dworzak	\$949,000 933 Shattuck Ave. 4BD/2BA Open Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Ruth Frassetto	\$279,000 3763 Ruby St. 3BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 Temescal 510-531-7000 x228 Wells & Bennett Realtors Kate Phillips	\$469,000 4326 Thompkins Ave 2BD/1 Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1111 Gallagher & Lindsey Ruth Mason
\$355,000 2101 Shoreline #478 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-882-4425 Kane & Associates Tisa Beene	\$495,000 1017 Ordway 2BD Open Sun 2-4 510-524-9888 x16 Berkeley Hills Realty Jean Aulka	\$985,000 2908 Pine Ave 4BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Elmwood 510-524-9888 x26 Berkeley Hills Realty Norah Brower	\$280,000 1476 81st St. 3BD/2BA Sun. 1-4pm 510-530-6330 Assist-2-Sell Howard Kane	\$470,000 593 62nd St. 4+BD/2.5 Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-834-1111 Prudential Henriette Lanier Gr
\$399,000 1562 Lincoln Ave #C 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-610-5009 Kane & Associates Sally Han	\$549,000 709 Santa Fe Ave. 3 BD/ 1.25 BA Open Sunday 1-4 510-280-2155 Red Oak Josh Levine	\$1,300,000 501 Santa Barbara 3BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Anne Feste	\$289,000 3793 Northridge Drive 2 BD/1.5 BA Open Sun 1-4 Hilltop Village 510-869-5342 Prudential California Realty Alky Vasdekis	\$479,000 80 Entrada Ave. 2+BD/1 Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave. 510-531-7000-2 Wells & Bennett Realtors Stan Hammo
\$409,000 3413 Catalina Ave 2BD/2BA Open Sat 1-3 & Sun 2-4 BFI 510-522-0660/865-3460 Kane & Associates Elizabeth Kane/Pat Colburn	\$549,000 1048 Curtis St. 3+BD/1BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Anne Van Dyke	\$1,595,000 71 Noble Rd. 4+ BD/3.5 BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-428-0900 Prudential Rosalie Marshall	\$299,900 2380 108th Ave 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty 510-814-4873 Mayann Valentine	\$489,000 5290 Broadway Terrace #302 2+BD/7 Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-338-1111 Pacific Union Real Estate Ashley O'N
\$439,000 1107 Central Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-919-9934 Kane & Associates Steve Andersen	\$729,000 1027 Peralta Ave. 5 BD/3 BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-280-2104 Red Oak Tom Cone	\$575,000 5753 Greenridge Rd 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Carolyn Mettelmann East Bay Real Estate Network 800-400-6959	\$335,000 2118 65th Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Prudential 510-525-2346 Carol Heath-Kim	\$495,000 5405 Carlton St. #201 2+BD/7 Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-338-1111 Pacific Union Real Estate Ashley O'N
\$439,500 431 Lincoln Ave 2+BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1108 Gallagher & Lindsey	\$749,000 561 Vistamont Ave. 3 BD/2 BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-292-2011 Red Oak Tim Cassidy	\$415,000 6922 Gladys Ave 3BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 510-851-9888 Prudential California Realty Wendy T. Louie	\$339,000 6236 Laird Ave. 2+BD/1.5BA Sat. & Sun. 12-4 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell Eastbay Tony Wright	\$499,000 10975 Caloden Street 3BD/1.5 Sun. 2-4:30 Sequoyah Heights 510-339-4111 Coldwell Banker Noni Robins
\$449,000 434 Haight 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 Main Island 510-864-2824 Kane & Associates David Gunderman	\$299,000 1332 67th St. 3 BD/ 2.5 BA Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-280-2178 Red Oak Grace Bishop	\$499,950 2626 Tullier Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-662-8469 Security Pacific Carla Della Zoppa	\$349,000 823 43rd St. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 North Oakland 510-834-2010 Prudential Dolores Thom	\$519,000 5001 Kearney Avenue 3BD/1.5 Sun. 2-5 Montclair 510-339-4111 Coldwell Banker Darcy Diamond
\$449,000 3258 San Jose Ave 2BD Open Sun 2-4:30 510-522-5827/521-1277 Bayside Real Estate Mark Wyman	\$379,000 1258 Burnett 2 BD/1 BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-527-2700 x31 Marvin Gardens Realty Julliana Wynberg	\$425,000 1250 Powell St #7 1BD/1BA Open Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau Heather Sittig	\$359,000 8001 Winthrop St. 3 BD/1 BA Open Sunday 1-5 510-428-0900 Prudential Kate Tanaka	\$519,000 7063 Saroni Dr 3BD/1 Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair 510-869-4111 Keller Williams Roxanne Br
\$459,000 1153 Admiralty Lane 3BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-748-1163 Gallagher & Lindsey Mila Nakpil	\$379,000 1258 Burnett 2 BD/1 BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-527-2700 x31 Marvin Gardens Realty Julliana Wynberg	\$549,000 1250 Powell St #5 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau Heather Sittig	\$359,000 7570 Mountain Blvd. #5 2BD/1.5BA Sun. 2-4pm Oak Knoll 510-569-3499 Richardson R. E. Services Easter McClain	\$525,000 3201 Brunell Dr. 2BD/3 Open 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1111 Pacific Union Real Estate Wendy Garb
\$492,500 2515 Otis Drive 2BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-614-4814 Harbor Bay Realty Connie	\$489,000 1128 Euclid Ave. 2 BD/1 BA Open Sunday 1-4 510-280-2126 Red Oak Leif Jensen	\$725,000 612 Coventry Rd. 3+BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. Susie Schewill	\$369,000 3318 Maple Ave 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4828 Harbor Bay Realty Martha	\$529,000 7134 Saroni Drive 3BD/1 Open Sun. 1:30-4:30 Montclair 510-339-4111 C21 Heritage Real Estate Kate C
\$518,000 33 Bay Park Terrace 2BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay 510-522-0660 Kane & Associates Elizabeth Kane	\$499,000 336 Magnolia Dr 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4842 Harbor Bay Realty Tom & Coly Young	\$750,000 45 Arlington 4BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4 510-527-8822 Millstein & Associates Gene Millstein	\$379,000 3914 Woodruff Ave. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2175 Red Oak Schuyler Oliver	\$539,000 444 Sunnyslope 3+BD/1 Sun. 2-4:30 Grand Lake 510-338-1111 Pacific Union Real Estate Donna C
\$519,000 23 Damon Court 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay 510-523-1115 Property Investment Services Dianne Richmond	\$593,000 1740 Bancroft Way 3BD/2BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-848-1950 x242 Thornwall Properties Bonnie	\$995,000 105 Kensington Road 5BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Montclair Better Homes Jim Shubert	\$379,000 3914 Woodruff Ave. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2175 Red Oak Schuyler Oliver	\$539,000 6045 Buena Ventura 3+BD/1 Open Sun 2-4:30 510-834-1111 Prudential LaTasha B
\$520,000 214 Chinaberry 3BD/2.5BA Open Sat & Sun 2-4 510-919-5485 Kane & Associates Bill Van Sloten	\$618,000 1348 Sacramento 2+BD/1.5 BA Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-280-2177 Red Oak Merritt Levine	\$425,000 1250 Powell St #5 2BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau Heather Sittig	\$379,000 3914 Woodruff Ave. 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30 510-280-2175 Red Oak Schuyler Oliver	\$569,000 4629 Mountain Blvd 4BD/3.5 Open 2-5 510-701-4111 Prudential/Johnson Court Sydney Har
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\$594,000 1329 Crown Dr 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4839 Harbor Bay Realty Bill Doug-	\$649,000 2401 Carleton Street 3 BD/ 2.5 BA Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-339-9290 Prudential Herb Manor	\$275,000 3800 Maybelle #2 2 BD/1.5 BA Open Sunday 1:30-4:30 510-843-2010 Prudential Jackie Care	\$405,000 2534 Frances St. 2BD/1BA Sat. & Sun. 12-4 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell Eastbay Tony Wright	\$599,000 38 Rio Vista Ave. 510-339-4111 Sun. 2-4:30 Piedmont Ave. Mavis Dela
\$599,000 2812 Windsor Dr 3BD/1.5BA Open Sat & Sun 1:30-4 510-749-0235/483-1676 Kane & Associates Anita Wong/Krystyna Nowak	\$695,000 2200 Marin Ave. 3 BD/2.5 BA Open Sunday 1-4 510-280-2155 Red Oak Josh Levine	\$269,000 4115 Agua Vista 2BD/1BA Open Sun 1-4 510-520-5229 Prudential CA Realty Kacy Carr	\$435,000 4610 Mattis Ct 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30 Redwood Hts 510-638-4134 Re/Max Stephanie Christmas	\$629,000 200 Lakeside Drive #802 2BD/1 Open Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-9900 C21 Heritage Real Estate Tom Er
\$709,000 1542 Pearl St 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4 510-748-1102 Gallagher & Lindsey Ray Thiemann	\$949,000 987 Euclid Ave. 3 BD/ 2 BA Open Sunday 2-4 510-280-2115 Red Oak Stan Momtchev	\$445,000 4372 Allendale 3BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 Maxwell Park 510-339-4000 Montclair Better Homes Lila Owens		\$635,000 5658 Ocean View Dr 4BD/3.5 Open Sun 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-524-1101 Berkeley Hills Realty Arlene Ba

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\$75,000 2749 Camino Lenada 5BD/2.5BA Piedmont Pines 510-339-0400 Grubb Co. Steve Michaelides \$85,000 3635 Virden Ave. 4+BD/3BA Redwood Heights 510-530-6330 Holt-Sell Howard Kane \$85,000 6560 Estates Dr. 4 BD/3 BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-834-2010 Prudential Ernest Villafranca \$90,000 1335 Mountain Blvd. 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-4550 Montclair Better Homes Nahid Nassiri \$99,000 4000 Greenwood Ave. 3+BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 Glenview 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Judith Cain \$99,000 690 Longridge Rd. 5BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highland 510-338-1348 Pacific Union Real Estate Fritz Hochfellner \$149,000 6125 Ascot 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-338-1354 Pacific Union Real Estate Jennie A. Flanigan \$159,000 20 Pine Hills Ct 5BD/2BA Sun. Sat & Sun 2-4 510-290-0130 One & Associates Tuyen Nguyen \$59,900 4 Binnacle Hill 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Hiller Highlands 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Elizabeth Dickson \$199,000 6505 Melville Drive 3+BD/2BA Sun. 2-5 510-531-9535 Owner	\$799,000 700 Trestle Glen 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-5 Crocker Highlands 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Joan Duffield \$825,000 2148 Mastlands Dr. 3+BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-5 Montclair 510-338-1340 Pacific Union Real Estate Christian Downer \$879,000 6982 Broadway Terrace 3BD/2+BA Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-338-1335 Pacific Union Real Estate Michelle Miller \$895,000 6401 Zinn Dr. 5BD/3 1/2 BA Open 1-5 510-339-3400 Owner \$924,000 6058 Fairlane Drive 4BD/3BA Sun. 2-5 Montclair 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Noni Robinson \$945,000 1024 Ardmore Ave. 4+BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30pm Crocker Highlands 510-339-9398 Edward Bell Realty Ed Bell \$945,000 5831 Ocean View Drive 4+BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 Rockridge 510-339-4280 Montclair Better Homes Mary Jane McConville \$945,000 6826 Sherwood Drive 3+BD/3+BA Sun. 2-5 Claremont Hills 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Ellen Lancaster \$949,900 5535 Moraga Ave. 4+BD/3+BA Sun. 2-4:30 The Grubb Co. 510-339-0400 Steve Michaelides \$965,000 5565 Moraga Avenue 4 BD/4 BA Open Sat/Sun 2-4:30 510-845-0211 Prudential California Realty Barbara Hopper	\$975,000 812 Rosemount Road 3+BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Dian Hymer \$995,000 2716 Darnby Drive 4+BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-4550 Better Homes Montclair Nahid Nassiri \$999,500 35 Agnes 4 BD/3 BA Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-428-0900 Prudential Barbara McQuaid \$1,149,000 10063 Broadway Terrace 4BD/3 1/2 BA Open Sun 2-4 415-447-6248 Pacific Union Real Estate Bill Doyle \$1,175,000 1 Las Flores Court 3+BD/3BA Open Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-8900 C21 Heritage Real Estate Dione Cota \$1,200,000 3509 Klamath 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Oakland Hills 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker David Eckert \$1,245,000 6121 Ocean View Dr 3BD/3BA Open Sun 2-5 510-849-9900 Maison Nouveau Heather Sittig \$1,245,000 6193 Ruthland Road 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Montclair 510-339-4550 Better Homes Montclair Nahid Nassiri \$1,275,000 41 Evergreen Lane 3BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Heights 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker David Eckert	\$1,295,000 195 Roble Rd. 3+BD/2+BA Open Sunday 2-5 510-848-1093 Prudential California Realty Ford Plowright \$1,295,000 852 Mountain 5+ BD/3.5 BA Open Sunday 2-4:30 510-428-0900 Prudential Barbara McQuaid \$1,298,000 711 Grizzly Terrace Dr. 4BD/3.5BA Sun. 1-4:30pm 415-296-2108 McGuire Real Estate Robin Dusan \$1,329,000 3789 Brunell Drive 5+BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-5 Joaquin Miller 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker Donna Conroy \$1,349,000 49 Evergreen Lane 4BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Claremont Heights 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker David Eckert \$1,389,000 4969 Proctor Ave. 4BD/2.5BA Sun. 2-4:30 Upper Rockridge 510-338-1358 Pacific Union Real Estate Joan Hause \$1,875,000 5499 Golden Gate 4+BD/3.5BA Sun. 2-4:30pm Upper Rockridge 510-338-1382 Pacific Union Real Estate Keith Tollas Piedmont \$1,295,000 455 Mountain Ave. 4+BD/3+BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-652-2133 The Grubb Co. C. Jones & D. Debaradi \$1,675,000 119 Waldo Ave. 5BD/3BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Sandra Vogl	\$310,000 408 Blackberry Lane 2BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4 925-938-6157 Van Pelt Properties Elizabeth Van Pelt \$399,950 2371 Simas Ave. 3BD/2BA Sun. 12-4 Help-U-Sell Eastbay 510-251-6000 Tony Wright Richmond \$419,000 6635 Richmond Ave. 2+BD/2BA Open Sunday 1-4 510-280-2170 Red Oak Virginia Perl San Francisco \$539,000 2324 22nd Street 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4 510-814-4847 Harbor Bay Realty Chuck & Nancy Bianchi San Leandro \$398,000 2372 Driftwood Ave. 3BD/2BA Sat. & Sun. 12-4 510-251-6000 Help-U-Sell Eastbay Tony Wright \$429,000 541 Callan Ave 3BD/2BA Open Sat & Sun 510-523-1144/814-4800 Harbor Bay Realty Tere Lee/Barbara Disalvo \$465,000 1556 Santa Rosa St. 3BD/2BA Sun. 2-4:30 510-339-4000 Montclair Better Homes Earle Shenk

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Friday, September 14, 2001

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
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Sales

FROM PAGE B10

LOWEST PRICE: \$339,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$509,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$414,500

BURKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$352,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$950,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$578,100

Experiences

FROM PAGE B6

mortgages, title insurance, home inspections, etc. The realty companies say their clients appreciate the convenience, but our interviewees said no thanks.

They said they prefer to hire companies that have no ties to their real-estate agency because they worry that such service providers may have an incentive to make the deal go through, no matter what.

"One-stop shopping drives down the competitiveness, and it doesn't drive down the costs for

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$294,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$568,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$350,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$411,200

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$225,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$430,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$281,375

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$230,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$270,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$245,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$248,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 93
LOWEST PRICE: \$ 90,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$ 1,410,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$362,500

AVERAGE PRICE: \$422,629

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$775,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$ 1,148,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$936,375

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Oakland

\$155,000 3233 Monterey Blvd. Large wooded lot with spectacular views next to very nice homes. Jeff Goodman 510-814-4885

\$259,000 1458 34TH ST. Dramatic spacious modern unit, designer kitchen, private patio & soaking tub. Garage and off St. parking. Elaine 510-814-4835

\$299,900 2380 108th Ave. OPEN SUN 2-4. Single level 2+bd, 1.5ba bungalow with new appliances, new paint, new carpets, new central heating and new back lawn. 2 car detached garage. Maryann 510-814-4873

\$369,000 3318 Maple Ave. OPEN SUN 2-4. Laurel District. 1-Level 2bd/1+ba home with hardwood floors in living room and both bedrooms. 2-Car garage. Marsha 510-814-4828

\$388,000 8041 Greenly Dr. Secluded Keller area. French Country single level home with 3BD, 1BA, hardwood floors, and fresh paint inside and out. Move-in condition! Donnaluci 510-814-4826

\$399,000 1426 MacArthur Blvd. Glenview District. Completely remodeled inside & out. 2+BD, 1BA, partial view of SF and Oakland. EZ access to freeway. Elaine 510-814-4835

\$425,000 744 26th St., Sixties style 3 unit building. Termite report available. Kathy 510-814-4706

\$499,000 3231 Monterey Blvd. Fabulous Bay views from 3BD, 2BA home! Large family room, 2 fireplaces. Needs cosmetic work. "As is" sale. Steve Sorensen 510-814-4888

Oakland

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510-662-8469 \$499,950

RICHMOND VIEW

BRIGHT AND AIRY BUNGALOW
2 BR 1 BA, 1 car attached garage, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, all appliances included. French doors to big backyard, very close to Wildcat Canyon. #03019357. Steve Kendell 510-662-8518 \$319,950

OAKLAND

BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME IN THE HILLS
You'll enjoy the classic detail of this gorgeous 3 BR 3.5 BA home w/master suite. Extra office/den, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets, family rm, living room w/fireplace, 2 car attached garage. #03012603 Paul Triplett 510-662-8533 \$1,269,000

KENSINGTON

FINER OPPORTUNITY
3 BR 1 BA, approx. 1634 sq. ft. with bay views! Fireplace, central heat, larger lot. Great opportunity! #03018637 Michele Manzo 510-222-8870 ext. 245 \$449,950

BERKELEY

CRAFTSMAN FINER OPPORTUNITY!
3+ BR 1 BA, fireplace, formal dining rm, eat-in kitchen, room to expand. Basement needs TLC. #03021447. Peggy Norris 510-8570 \$425,000

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Western Capital Mtge. Svc., Inc. 888-560-2923 DRE# 01080489 Fees=\$1630	30-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 0.250 4.840 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 0.250 5.240 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.000 4.310 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.500 ... 0.000 4.560 ... 30	Call for No Closing Cost Loan Rates Visit us at www.loweestates.com *Fixed Rates Are For Purchases	
A American Resid. Lend. 800-566-8470 DRE# 4130340 Fees=\$1624	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 0.000 4.890 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.290 ... 45	30-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 0.500 4.810 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.000 4.290 ... 45	Refi. purchase or consolidate now! Free Approval! No Doc Loans M-F 7:00-9:00 Sat-Sun 7:00-5:00	
A Better Mortgage 800-711-0027 DRE# 01162773 Fees=\$1969	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.180 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.580 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.690 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 ... 0.000 4.200 ... 30	Credit problems ok. Open weekends 2nd mortgages/Equity lines available www.westcoastfinancial.net	
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE# 01351704 Fees=\$1889	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.190 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.490 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.560 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.250 ... 0.000 4.410 ... 30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK. "Apply online" Se Habla Espanol www.superior-mtg.net	
A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate 800-640-5588 DRE# 01197415 Fees=\$1820	30-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 2.000 4.683 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 2.000 4.922 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.000 ... 2.000 4.213 ... 30	10-yr Int Only 3.250 ... 0.000 3.330 ... 30	Open 7 days 9A-9P www.ofclans.com E.Bay Offices 800-765-7909 HablaEspaol.ONLY call 877-227-2642	
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE# 01096146 Fees=\$1599	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.213 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.413 ... 45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.787 ... 45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.815 ... 45	Zero cost loans available 10/1 Jumbo ARM NO prepay Open 24/7 @ www.aalender.com	
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE# 00892684 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.062 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.312 ... 30	Jumbo Special* ...	Jumbo Special* ...	3 yr 1/yr ARM 3.875%, 3.331 APR; 0/0 Fee 5yr 1/yr ARM 4.375%, 3.453 APR; 0/0 Fee Prepay & other restrictions may apply	
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE# 00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.000 4.960 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.000 5.340 ... 45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 1.000 4.090 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.375 ... 1.000 3.460 ... 45	Cal-State Funding CAN fund your loan. Rates change daily. Call for latest rate. We are here to satisfy your needs	
California Mortgage Mart 800-947-4769 DRE# 00406187 Fees=\$1799	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.070 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.400 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.510 ... 45	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.810 ... 45	www.CaliforniaMortgageMart.com for updated rates, 45 day upfront rate lock, loan application. Minimum loan \$200,000.	
California Mtge. Advisors 888-CALL-REFI x600 DRE# 01170888 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.088 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.413 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 ... 0.000 3.660 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.035 ... 30	DIRECT LENDER LOANS TO 10 MILLION WWW.CALMTG.COM	
CMG Mortgage 800-958-5339 DRE# 01170028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 1.375 4.932 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 1.250 5.263 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.000 ... 1.125 3.112 ... 45	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.750 ... 1.250 3.877 ... 45	Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & financing income option available. Stated for people with less than perfect credit.	
Community Home Mtge. 800-670-8403 DRE# 00809920 Fees=\$2391	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 0.000 4.962 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 0.000 5.250 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.375 ... 0.000 4.524 ... 45	FHA/VA 30-yr Fxd call ...	We are open 7 days a week. WE DO COMMERCIAL LOANS WITH LOW RATES Call for ARM Programs and 100 purchases	
ditech.com 800-395-1376 DOC# 8132004 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.240 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.564 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.625 ... 0.000 4.818 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 ... 0.000 5.091 ... 30	Apply online at www.ditech.com	
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2146 DOC# 86037471 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 1.875 5.194 ... 60	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 ... 0.500 5.810 ... 60	1-mo COFI ARM* 2.450 ... 1.000 4.791 ... 45		Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com	
eSource Mortgage, Inc. 888-221-9787 DOC# 6038477 Fees=\$1352	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 1.750 5.189 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.440 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.125 ... 1.750 4.330 ... 30	1-yr ARM 1.950 ... 0.000 3.340 ... 60	Low rates with NO POINTS ASKED NO CLOSING COSTS AVAILABLE Pics. online @ www.esourcemortgage.com	
First Blackhawk Financial 925-648-3039 DRE# 01144055 Fees=\$2006	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.200 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.125 5.420 ... 30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875 ... 0.000 4.900 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.030 ... 30	Jumbo & super Jumbo Specialist Mary L. 3/1 Jumbo 3.625 pt 3.65 apr 30 day 15 yr Jumbo 4.75 0 pt 4.81 call 7 days wk	
Golden Horizon Mortgage 877-414-8280 DRE# 01316954 Fees=\$1652	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 1.000 5.034 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 1.000 5.383 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 1.500 4.594 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.625 ... 1.000 3.710 ... 30	OPEN WEEKENDS & EVENINGS. CASHOUT STATED INCOME, CALL OR APPLY ON LINE at WWW.CALFIRSTLENDING.COM or (877)414-8280	
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE# 01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 1.000 5.172 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 1.000 5.501 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 1.000 4.666 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 1.000 3.991 ... 30	Don't get lured-in by low, low Quotes! Call me for an honest, lockable rate In-home appts. or Imperial-mortgage.net	
Intercontinental Mortgage 800-848-6002 DRE# 01347152 Fees=\$1955	30-yr Fixed 5.000 ... 0.000 5.088 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.411 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.649 ... 30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.250 4.848 ... 30	Call for great rates on other loan products. (800) 848-6002. Apply online http://www.intercontinentalmortgage.com	
Lenders Northstar Mtg Grp 925-284-3960 DRE# 1345744 Fees=\$2224	30-yr Fixed 4.750 ... 1.250 4.944 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 1.500 5.327 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.250 ... 0.875 4.527 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 1.950 ... 1.000 4.519 ... 45	www.NSMLoans.com Call for Today's Rate Call for ZERO pt quotes. Purchase or Refinance. Located in Lafayette, CA	
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Mortgage Broker Assoc. 877-987-7700 DRE# 01116614 Fees=\$2277	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 0.875 5.041 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.125 ... 0.375 5.201 ... 45	3/1 ARM 2.875 ... 0.875 3.934 ... 45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250 ... 0.375 3.336 ... 45	NO Income/NO Assets/NO Job? - YES NO Money/Down NO Closing Costs? - YES All types of Credit? - YES	
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE# 00887662 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.213 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.590 ... 30	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.649 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.836 ... 30	Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty. all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction.	
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Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE# 01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.227 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.419 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000 ... 0.000 4.041 ... 30	3/1 ARM 3.000 ... 0.000 3.090 ... 30	Se Habla Espanol. 100% purchase loans Credit Problems OK	
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC# 4130386 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 4.875 ... 0.000 4.918 ... 30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.250 ... 0.000 5.272 ... 30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875 ... 0.000 3.975 ... 30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.250 ... 0.000 3.849 ... 30	Get rates online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays 9-3, evenings until 8:00 pm. Purchases may be 1/8% lower.	
ProMortgage 877-552-2700 DRE# 01230152 Fees=\$1851	30-yr Fixed 5.250 ... 0.000 5.330 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500 ... 0.000 5.539 ... 45	7/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 ... 0.000 4.740 ... 45	10/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 ... 0.000 4.830 ... 45	GREAT INTEREST ONLY JUMBO'S! 10 YR 4.875%, 7 YR 4.75%, 5 YR 4.375% 6 MO LIBOR ARM 2.875%	
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE# 01203226 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.125 ... 0.000 5.180 ... 45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375 ... 0.000 5.398 ... 45	15-yr Fixed 4.500 ... 0.000 4.570 ... 45	5/1 ARM 4.000 ... 0.000 3.850 ... 45	Good Credit Has It Rewards! No Income Check Loans. No Upfront Fees Pmt/Refi to 100%. Saratogabancorp.com.	
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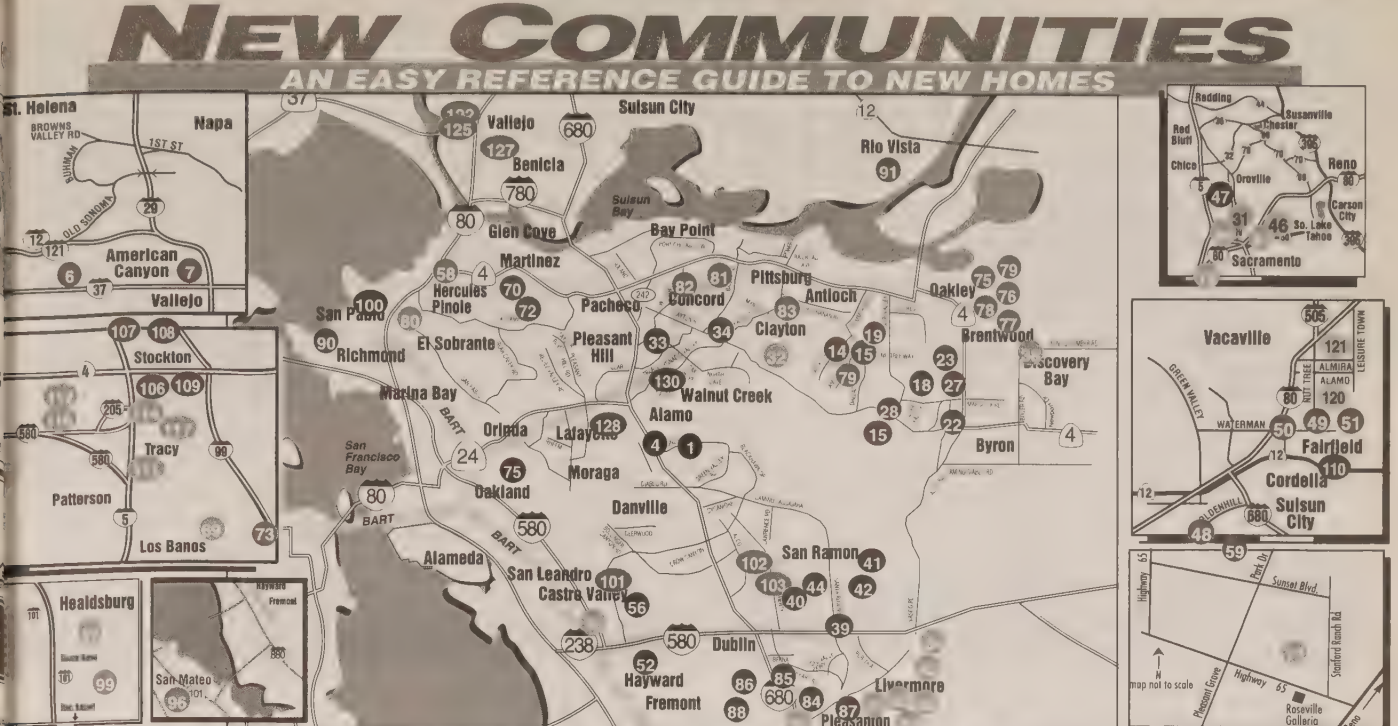
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AMERICAN CANYON

6 America
Model homes now open! From the \$470,000s. Large single family homes with 3 to 4 bedrooms. Granite slab kitchen countertops included in every home! High plate windows and expansive wood ceilings. Elevated lots with views to Napa and surrounding valleys. Three floorplans from 2,554 to 3,788 sq. ft. American Canyon Rd. to Broadway south to Ventana Drive east. 707-557-8494. www.youngcaliforniahomes.com

7 The Preserve
From the mid \$400,000s. 1.2 story, 2378-3049 sq. ft. 3-5 BR. 2.5-3.5 baths. 3-4 car garage. Near natural preserve, Napa River, parks, a kids walk to school. Hwy 29/Ventana American Canyon Rd. Hummingbird Canyon. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. HomeDay/Saturday. 707-557-9388.

ANTIOCH

14 Mira Vista Ridge
From the low \$400,000s. 5 and 6BR, up to 3650 sq. ft. with 3-car garages. Water and hillside views. James Donahoe Blvd. to Hummingbird Dr. 925-555-5553. www.seerhomes.com

15 Meadow Creek Glen
From the high \$300,000s. Your choice of 2 communities - Executive homes with up to 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths or 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Conveniently located near schools, parks & shopping. Hwy 41/Highway 101. Call 925-947-1568. www.greenterrains.com

BRENTWOOD

7 The Legends
From the high \$200,000s. Three new neighborhoods at The Legends. One by the waterfront, one by the lake, one by the hills. Flexible options, up to almost 3000 sq. ft. Excellent location, great schools, great shopping. Walk to Lynn's Homes. 888-681-1098 (925) 555-5553.

Serata
Priced from the mid \$400,000s. Nestled within the prestigious Deer Ridge Country Club. Seated within the 3.5 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 3,000 sq. ft. home. Serata offers a variety of options to 3,500 sq. ft. 3-4 bedrooms, 2.5-3.5 baths. Call 925-947-1568. www.greenterrains.com

Garlin Legacy
From the high \$300,000s. Now selling! Distinctive single-family homes in the master-planned Garlin Legacy Community. A flexible 3.4-4 BR floor plan. 1700-2718 sq. ft. Optional den, bonus rooms (per plan). Excellent schools. Close to swim center & championship dining. Sales office open daily 10-6, Mon. 1-5. 925-515-1177. www.sggp.com

22 Mountaineer at Deer Ridge
From the low \$400,000s. Mountain Homes. All new home designs ranging from 3,000-3,199 sq. ft. Call sales office for info. Open daily 10am-5pm. From Hwy 41 at Sutter Rd. west. Live on Mountain View Drive to model. Sales office open daily 12:00 Mountain View Drive. 925-515-9784.

23 Sunset Crossing
From the high \$200,000s. Craftsman-style homes in rural setting with modern conveniences. Up to 4 bed/2.5 bath designs with tile and retreat options. A different single-story floor plans ranging in size from approx. 1,800-2,225 sq. ft. 925-515-1177. Hwy 41/Westwood Dr. to Hillview. DeVos Homes. www.devoshomes.com. Open daily 10-6. Tues-1.

27 Parkview at Garlin Ranch
From the mid \$300,000s. A collection of 8 home designs from 3 to 3BR in a master-planned setting. Open daily 10-5, Mon. 1-5. Signature Properties. 925-240-1565. www.sggp.com

28 Shadow Lakes
From the \$300,000s. 25 models now open! Two new communities and a plus the hottest set of 10 communities in the shadow of the hills. With 2-4 bedrooms, 1.5-2.5 baths. Open daily 10-6. Call sales office for info. Open daily 10am-5pm. From Hwy 41 at Sutter Rd. west. Live on Mountain View Drive to model. Sales office open daily 12:00 Mountain View Drive. 925-515-9784.

CITRUS HEIGHTS

Ryland Stock Ranch
Coming September 2003. Single family detached homes. 4 & 5 bedrooms. For information call 688-646-6888. ryland.com

CLAYTON

Rachel Ranch Estates
From the mid \$800,000s. Only one left! Eight single story estate homes, beautiful tree location. 4-5 bedrooms 3 to 3.5 baths. 305 to 335 sq. ft. At the end of the L.A. off Canyon Rd. Broker open by appt. For information call. 925-947-1568. www.greenterrains.com

CONCORD

33 Parkside
Model homes now open! From the \$450,000s. Four bedrooms, 3.5 baths. 2,500 sq. ft. Open daily 10-6. Call sales office for info. Open daily 10am-5pm. From Hwy 41 at Sutter Rd. west. Live on Mountain View Drive to model. Sales office open daily 12:00 Mountain View Drive. 925-515-9784.

34 Alhambra Estates
From the high \$200,000s. Only one left! Eight single story estate homes, beautiful tree location. 4-5 bedrooms 3 to 3.5 baths. 305 to 335 sq. ft. At the end of the L.A. off Canyon Rd. Broker open by appt. For information call. 925-947-1568. www.greenterrains.com

36 Crystal Ranch
From the mid \$600,000s. Only one left! Eight single story estate homes, beautiful tree location. 4-5 bedrooms 3 to 3.5 baths. 305 to 335 sq. ft. At the end of the L.A. off Canyon Rd. Broker open by appt. For information call. 925-947-1568. www.greenterrains.com

DISCOVERY BAY

Lakeshore
Discovery Bay's Premier Guarded New Home Community starting from the \$300,000. The Escape, Harvest Cove, Horizons, Reflections, Sterling Bay, and Stone Valley. Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and weekdays by appt. only. 1-800-780-LAKE. Visit www.visitlakeshore.com

DUBLIN

39 Tassajara Meadows
From the low \$500,000s. Models Open! Premier community for near east schools, employment & new 4 floor plan. 1958-2127 sq. ft. 3-4BR, master suites, gourmet kit, flrm, rms, w/boilt-in theaters. 925-757-0001. The Mission Peak Co.

40 Riva at Tassajara Creek
From the mid \$500,000s. Winner - Community of the Year 2003 MAME Awards. Ask About Our Trade-In Program! These homes feature 3 to 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths in up to 2,335 sq. ft. To Visit Riva from 680, take 580 East to Tassajara Rd. into Dublin and follow the signs to Riva. Models are open for touring 10 to 5 daily. Call 925-822-7330. www.greenterrains.com

41 Dublin Ranch Villages
From the mid \$300,000s. This community is four villages of luxurious townhomes & condominiums, more than 30 different floor plans from 840 to 2,950 square feet. 1, 2 or 3 bedrooms attached garages, 9-1000 sq. ft. fireplaces, a patio or terrace. Open daily 11-6. 925-479-9611. www.lolbrihomes.com

42 Glen Eagles at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
From the \$700,000s. Also in the rolling hills of Dublin Ranch, four stunning floorplans, 2700 to 4000 sq. ft. and up to 4 bedrooms and 3 baths, 10-1000 sq. ft. master bedroom suites with elegant soaking tubs, walk-in closets and dual vanities. Take 580 to Valley Rd. exit north on Dublin and 11th. 925-551-5655. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

43 St. Andrews at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
From the \$600,000s. Also in the rolling hills of Dublin Ranch, many home styles will overlook fairways and greens of the 18-hole public course, scheduled to open in the fall of 2003. Four elegant and spacious floorplans from 3700 to 4000 sq. ft. up to 5 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, spacious family rooms, and master suites. Open daily 11-6. 925-551-5655. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

44 Pinnacle at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
From the low \$1,000,000s. Large home styles, features four luxurious home designs up to 4 bedrooms and 5,500 square feet. Two-story foyer, two-story living & dining, master bedroom suites, & gourmet kitchens with granite slab countertops & gourmet appliances. Open daily 11-6. 925-822-6507. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

45 Inverness at Dublin Ranch Golf Club
Priced from the low \$700,000s. NOW SELLING! Four extraordinary home designs offer 4,000 sq. ft. to 4,900 sq. ft., 4 to 7 bedrooms, and 3 to 5 1/2 baths. Spacious family rooms, kitchens with large breakfast areas. Take 580 to the Valley Rd. Chero Rd. exit, turn left and proceed 1/4 mile to the sales office north of the highway. Open daily 11-6. 925-453-1984. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

46 Rainson at Tassajara Club
From the mid \$500,000s. Ask About Our Trade-In Program! Four extraordinary home designs offer 4,000 sq. ft. to 4,900 sq. ft., 4 to 7 bedrooms, and 3 to 5 1/2 baths. Spacious family rooms, kitchens with large breakfast areas. Take 580 to the Valley Rd. Chero Rd. exit, turn left and proceed 1/4 mile to the sales office north of the highway. Open daily 11-6. 925-453-1984. www.dublinranchgolfclub.com

EL DORADO HILLS

45 The Promontory
Priced from the mid \$400,000s. Premier homebuilders and custom homes in a picturesque setting at the El Dorado hills overlooking Folsom Lake, Sacramento and coastal ranges. Details and brochures at www.ThePromontory.com.

46 Sierra Vista at Serrano
Four from the mid \$800,000s. Outstanding gated community featuring 4 elegant homes with up to 3,924 sq. ft. and luxurious appointments. 916-834-3477. Pacific Mountain Partners.

ELK GROVE

47 Ryland Homecoming
From the mid \$200,000s. 916-685-4282. Cross-section. Interstate 5 to Elk Grove Blvd. east. Right on Cross-section Parkway 1st right on Harvest Park Dr. Ryland.com

FAIRFIELD

48 Southbrook
From the high \$300,000s. Models for sale! Four elegant models with 3 & 4 bedrooms, single family homes with plans to 2,444 sq. ft. Conveniently located near schools & shopping. Lots of walking trails and great community located at Gold Hill Rd. off Hwy 80 or Hwy 101. Call 707-864-0225. www.seerhomes.com

49 Ventura at Green Valley
From the low \$400,000s. Ventura offers lots of flexibility with open floorplans ranging from 2,000 to 2,844 sq. ft. up to 6 bedrooms. One-half acre features gourmet kitchens, cozy fireplaces, spacious master suites, entertainment rooms & more! Open 11-6 daily. 707-864-0474. www.chiltonhomes.com

50 The Masters Collection at Paradise Valley - Hurry! New Release!
Golf Course Views from \$399,950. 5 plans, 3-4 bed 2-4 bath, 1958-3444 sq. ft. from the high \$300,000s. Arcadis Development Co. 707-434-9811

HAYWARD

52 Hayward Hills - Fairview Heights
Model Home Now Open! Priced from the mid \$600,000s. 11 New homes in a spectacular Hayward Hills setting. 4-5 bedrooms, downstairs guest suites, separate master retreat areas, upstairs office, three-car garages. Large lots and spacious floorplans. 2 to 3,500 sq. ft. 3-4 bedrooms. Call 925-453-1984 and BART. Open Friday-Tuesday 11am-5pm. Fairview Ave. at St. Delo Bakers & Developers (510) 686-0889. www.devoshomes.com

56 Studio Walk
Coming Soon. Hayward corridor. 2 models: 1,598 sq. ft. to 1,732 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms. 888-646-6888. ryland.com

HEALDSBURG

52 Parkland Estates
From \$879,900. 32 homes sold! Only 2 left! Just two wine country estate homes remain in the hills above Healdsburg. Open to 1,000 sq. ft. on acre lots with panoramic views. Take Hwy 101 to General Healdsburg Rd. continue 1.8 miles north on Healdsburg Ave. Turn right on Parkland Farms Blvd. Continue to the top of the hill, follow signs. Open Fri-Mon. 12-4. 707-473-0333. www.estateatparkland.com

LINCOLN

59 Ryland Twelve Bridges
From the high \$200,000s. Single family detached homes, 3-5 bedrooms, up to 1,656-2,461 sq. ft. Sales Center open daily 10am-5pm. Tuesdays 12pm-5pm. Hwy 85 North to 12 Bridges Drive, turn right and follow signs to the Sales Center. 916-403-3993. www.ryland.com

LIVERMORE

60 Vineyard Gate
From the low \$800,000s. Models Now Open! 4-5 bedrooms, up to 4,000 sq. ft. Surrounded by vineyards in the Livermore valley, close to golf, wineries, country estates. Open 10-5 daily. 925-455-8000. Visit pacificrealhomes.com to register for the internet list and receive preview info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

62 Copperage
From the low \$600,000s. Now Open! Luxurious single-family homes in a wine country setting. 3.4 & 5 BR. 2 & 3 BA. 1997-2007 sq. ft. Options for dens, lifts, terraces & more. Signature Properties. 925-373-4786

63 Ponderosa Legacy
From the high \$300,000s. Models Now Open! Executive homes! Located near Wente Golf Course. 4-5 bdrm. 3.5 & 4.5 bath homes approx. 3,435 - 4,451 sq. ft. Homeless range in price approx. 15,500 to over 22,000 sq. ft. Open Thurs. Sun. 11-5 a.m. Mon. 2-5 p.m. www.ponderosahomes.com 580 to Ponderosa exit, turn right on Arroyo Rd. left on Hansen Rd. 925-961-0020. www.ponderosahomes.com

64 Vinsante
Grand Opening! From the \$700,000s. Handcrafted luxury homes featuring "town and country" living. 3-4 & 5 bdrm designs from 2,740 to 3,750 sq. ft. flexible options and custom finishes. Welcoming porches, gourmet kitchens, prewired computer centers, and separate a/c units. Open 10-5 daily. 925-455-8000. Visit pacificrealhomes.com to register for the internet list and receive preview info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

Los Olivos
From the \$800,000s. Estate residences amongst the vineyards at the South Livermore Valley. 4079 to 4395 sq. ft. with room options up to 5,000 sq. ft. Single level and two-story homes. 3 to 4 car garages. 3 to 5 bedrooms. Priced in the \$800,000s. Center Homes. 925-344-7977. www.visitlosolivos.com

Lindenwood
From the low \$700,000s. Fastest Selling Luxury Homes in the Livermore Area! Ask About Our Trade-In Program! Fabulous master suites, extra large kitchens and oversized family rooms are just a few of the features in this million-dollar home. Panoramic views of nearby Mt. Diablo and neighboring vineyards. Exclusive architectural design offering 4 to 6 bedrooms and up to 4 baths in up to 3,548 sq. ft. Models are open for touring 10 to 5 daily except Wed. 12-5 p.m. Call 925-373-4868. www.greenterrains.com

Cornerstone
From the high \$400,000s. 2 new Open homes with 1665 to 2484 sq. ft. 3-5 bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 baths and 2-car garages. KB Home. 925-446-9807.

69 Verona
Coming Soon! From the low \$200,000s. 3-4 BR homes ranging from 1,820 to 3,000 sq. ft. Close to shopping and schools. Excellent location, Woodside Homes.

MARTINEZ

70 Ashford Place
From the low \$400,000s. Final Phase! Distinctive 24 unit townhome community. Dual master suites, granite, maple cabinetry, attached garage, premier community location near Hwy 41/80. Visit now, before they are gone! Open 10-5 daily. Call 925-455-8000. Visit pacificrealhomes.com to register for the internet list and receive preview info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

72 Alhambra Estates
From the mid \$600,000s. OPEN SUNDAYS FROM 1PM TO 4PM! Located in the rolling hills of Alhambra in Valley. Alhambra Estates features custom-style estate homes. These homes range from approx. 2,800 sq. ft. to 3,285 sq. ft. with 4 BR, 3BA, den, kit and 3-car garage. Conveniently located to the historic downtown of Martinez. For information call The Premier Group at 925-937-5540 or see www.reisgroup.com

73 Claremont Collections
From the mid \$200,000s. Now selling! Claremont Pointe in the historic Claremont Meadows in Turley. offer 7-8 BR luxury homes in a premier neighborhood, up to 4,087 sq. ft. Prewired for the latest high-tech systems. www.pacificrealhomes.com. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

74 Ryland Gardens
From the mid \$200,000s. Single family detached cluster-style homes in Natomas Park. Floorplans ranging from 2,000-2,015 sq. ft. 2 to 3 bedrooms. 2.5 to 3.5 baths. Call 925-455-8000. Visit pacificrealhomes.com to register for the internet list and receive preview info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

OAKLAND

75 Durant
Durant Village - From the high \$200,000s. An exciting collection of townhomes located near the Oakland Airport, offer up to 1,734 square feet of living space with patios and attached garages with private entrances. Durant Place - 5 traditional single-family courtyard home designs from the high \$200,000s. 3-5 bedrooms, up to 2,488 sq. ft. Durant sales office open daily 10-6. Mon. 12-6. 510-638-9426. www.sggp.com

OAKLEY

76 Delta Pointe
Grand Opening-Models Now Open! From the mid \$300,000s. This wonderful collection of new homes offers a great family lifestyle. Featuring 3-4 bedroom homes ranging in size from 1,620-3,035 sq. ft. All homes fully equipped with incredible amenities at standard features. Open Sat & Sun. 10-6. weekdays 10-5. Call 925-425-4095. www.castlecohomes.com

77 Rock Island
Now Selling! From the \$800,000s. Luxurious estate waterfront living! 3 innovative designs from 3,042 - 4,000 sq. ft. 3 to 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, spacious living areas & 4-car garages. gourmet kitchen, pre-wired CAT 6, Mt. Diablo view! Sales office open 10-5 Friday-Saturday. 926-684-9873. Hwy. 4 to Cypress to Sandpoint Blvd.

78 Parklands
From the low \$300,000s. Now selling! 1st phase of beautiful single-family homes. One and two story plans up to 2,750 sq. ft. in Oakley off Highway 4 (Main St.) east on Laurel Rd. at Quail Valley Run. Sales trailers open daily 10-5. For more information, call 925-825-8951.

79 Quail Glen
Pre-Selling! Models Open Soon! From the mid \$400,000s. Quail Glen's premier community. An elegant collection of single level homes ranging from 2,241-3,241 sq. ft. on estate size lots. The finest in Delta living is here! Highway 4 to Oakley Ave. in Oakley. Sales Center is now open 10-5. For more information call 925-678-9401 or visit us at www.discoverybuilders.com

PITTSBURG

81 Canistrano at Oak Hills
From the low \$400,000s. Homes ranging from 1,785 to 3,319 sq. ft. with up to 5 bedrooms, 3 baths & 3 car garage. Models from Bart and major freeways with great water views. Hwy 4 East south off Bay Point Discovery Builders 925-455-1754. Homes www.seerhomes.com or www.sacramento.com

82 San Marco
From the low \$400,000s. Pittsburg's best location. Newer Master Planned Community. Estate homes from 1,870 and 3,700 sq. ft. up to 7 BR & 4 BA. A community center, basketball, volleyball, bocce ball, tennis courts and park. Hwy 4 East south off Bay Point Discovery Builders 925-455-1754. www.seerhomes.com or www.sacramento.com

83 Highlands Ranch
From the mid \$200,000s. Bay Area's Best Buy. Single family homes with plans ranging in size between 1,734 and 4,300 sq. ft. features 3-6 bdrms, 2-3 car garages with plenty of options for dens, lifts, terraces and bonus rooms. Hwy 4/Livermore Rd. exit south, left on Buchanan Road and right on Ventura Drive. For more information call 925-433-9070. www.seerhomes.com

PLEASANTON

84 Ruby Hill
Prestigious, family-oriented community offers a range of new-style homes, 1-1/2 acre and 1/2 acre lots and 2-4 bedrooms. Build your dream home on custom lots from the high \$400,000s. Custom residences available from the high \$400,000s. 800-867-8107. www.rubyhill.com

85 Bridge Creek Estates
Now Selling! Discoveries! An unprecedented opportunity to acquire a home at Pleasanton's most sought-after community. This select area of only new residences features estate homes ranging up to 8,770 square feet. Call 925-937-9888. www.greenterrains.com

86 Carlton Oaks
From the low \$200,000s. Models Now Open! The new collection of upscale homes offers 2 to 4 bedrooms and 4 to 5 baths with 3-car garages and up to 3,721 square feet of elegant living space. To visit Carlton Oaks, take the 680 freeway to Bernal Ave. west and go left on West Lagoon Rd. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. www.greenterrains.com

87 Pheasant Ridge
From the low \$1,000,000s. Pre-Model Pricing! A new neighborhood of one and two-story single family homes with 3 to 4 bedrooms, 2.5 to 3.5 baths, 2-car garage and den. This stunning and elegant residences are nestled along the scenic 680 freeway. Pheasant Ridge is located on Pheasant Ridge, take the 680 freeway to Bernal Ave. west and go left on West Lagoon Rd. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 925-937-9888. www.greenterrains.com

RICHMOND

88 Augusta at Country Club Vista
From the mid \$500,000s. Grand Opening. Augusta will offer 4-6 bedroom homes with up to 3,480 sq. ft. near to Richmond Country Club. SCS Development. 916-869-9473. www.scsdevelopment.com. Closed Wednesday.

89 Spyness at Country Club Vista
From the mid \$500,000s. Models for Sale! Only 1 left! Spyness is a series of executive 1-1/2 story homes located at Richmond Country Club. up to 3,735 sq. ft. SCS Development. 916-869-9473. www.scsdevelopment.com. Closed Wednesday.

RIO VISTA

91 Vineyard Bluffs
From the high \$300,000s. Now selling. Six home designs on quarter-acre lots of Montezuma Hill Rd. Estate homes from 2,044 to 4,026 sq. ft. with 3-5 bedrooms, 2-car garage and den. Open including luxury appointments. Open daily 10-6, Mon. 1-5pm. 707-374-3339. www.holmanhomes.com

SACRAMENTO

River Ranch
Priced from the mid \$200,000s. Outstanding river valley living on the new and exciting Southpoint area of West Sacramento. Pacific Mountain Partners features three distinctive floorplans designed, ranging from 2,100 to 3,000 square feet, with a king lot! Call 925-555-8200 or visit the website at www.visitriverbrooke.com

Ryland Parkway
Single family detached homes 3 & 4 bedrooms. North Sacramento - Interstate 5 to El Camino Ave. West to El Camino Rd. North to Juan Rd. East. For information call 888-646-6888. ryland.com

SAN MATEO

96 Ryland Marble Bay II
Now Selling! From the low \$500s. 1,254-1,752 sq. ft. 2 to 3 bedrooms. 2.5 to 3.5 baths. Call 925-455-8000. Visit pacificrealhomes.com to register for the internet list and receive preview info. Pacific Union Homes 1-800-876-2244.

SANTA ROSA

98 Siena at Tuscany
Priced from the \$800,000s. Fountainview Hilltop location for this collection of homes. For information call 925-941-4186. www.ryland.com. Hwy 101 to East Hillside Blvd. Exit West. Turn right onto Saratoga. then right on Yates.

SAN PABLO

100 Abella by Signature Properties
From the low \$300,000s. Now Previewing! Two collections of distinctive homes in a gated setting close to commute routes, BART, recreation, trails & parks. The Courts 3-5 BR single-family courtyard homes. 994-2521 sq. ft. The Terraces 2 & 3 BR multi-level townhomes, 1,511-1,677 sq. ft. Visit today! Sales office open daily 10-6, Monday Noon-6. 510-235-8215. www.sggp.com

SAN RAMON

102 Norris Canyon Estates
From the low \$1,000,000s. Extraordinary guard-gated community in a magnificent hillside location on the heart of San Ramon Valley. These homes feature majestic two-story towers, staircases, fabulous gourmet kitchens, master bedroom suites, sun family rooms, private dens, and lower level bedrooms, 2-1/2 car garages, 3.5 bath, up to approx. 7,700 sq. ft. Call 925-555-8200 or visit the website at www.visitnorriscanyon.com

103 Windmere
From the mid \$400,000s to the \$900,000s. Family-oriented, master-planned community with 10 neighborhoods to choose from. Outstanding amenities include more than 1,150 acres of open space, trails, parks, excellent schools, library & more. Close to freeways, employers & BART. For information call 925-555-8200 or visit the website at www.visitwindmere.com

104 Gale Ranch
From the \$600,000s. Shapel offers exceptional homes with a variety of styles and price ranges in an established master-planned community. 15 beautiful models to tour & 4 communities with a neighborhoods open soon. Monday 5-9 pm to 3:00 p.m. at Concord. 35 lot, up to approx. 7,700 sq. ft. Call 925-555-8200 or visit the website at www.visitgaleranch.com

STOCKTON

106 Portofino at La Morada
From the low \$200,000s. 3 & 4 bedroom single family homes ranging from 1,620 to 3,000 sq. ft. Close to shopping & schools. Excellent location. Woodside Homes. 209-477-9116

107 Ryland Greens
From the high \$200,000s. Single family detached homes 3-5 bedrooms. 2,191-2,893 sq. ft. For information call 209-957-9020. www.ryland.com. Intersect 5 to Eight Mile Rd. Go East, turn right on Davis Rd. Turn left on Valley View Dr. at mode 15

108 Ryland Fairways Builder Closes
From the mid \$200,000s. 3 & 4 bedroom single family detached homes. 1,756-2,282 sq. ft. For information call 209-957-9020. Ryland.com. Intersect 5 to Eight Mile Rd. Go East, turn right on Davis Rd. Turn left on Valley View Dr. at mode 15

109 Bellagio at Weston Ranch
Coming Soon! From the low \$200,000s. 3-4 BR homes ranging from 1,620 to 3,000 sq. ft. Close to shopping and schools. Excellent location. Woodside Homes. Northbound I-5, exit Highway 4/Crossroad Freeway to Highway 99. North on 99 to Morada exit. West on Morada to Homian Rd.

SUISUN

110 The Classics at Peterson Ranch
Priced from the mid \$300,000s. Six new elegant plans, 1,651 to 2,850 sq. ft. 3 & 4 bedrooms, some with attached garages. Easy commute. Forest Homes. 707-432-0166. Open daily 10-6.

111 Duck Creek
Grand Opening! From the low \$300,000s. Award homes newest community of affordable single-family homes. 3 & 4 bedrooms, up to 1,628 sq. ft. These well-designed floor plans have many amenities and upgraded features. Lot options are available in some plans. Take Elvertown Street off the 205. Turn left on Lamm Road. Right on Fabb Road, and left onto Montgomery Lane. Follow signs to the entrance of Duck Creek. Open Fri-Wed 10:30-6:00. 209-839-6871. www.holmanhomes.com

Madison Park
From the low \$400,000s. Family homes with a variety of options, 2,158-2,288 sq. ft. up to 4 bedrooms. Open daily 209-832-9400. www.holmanhomes.com. 209-839-9275

Mountain House
From the low \$200,000s. A spectacular new home town, planned with the best of yesterday and brightest of tomorrow in mind. Now showing the first new neighborhoods of this masterplan. All 3 & 4 bedroom homes from 1,800 to over 4,000 sq. ft. www.mountainhouse.com

VACAVILLE

120 Heritage Place
From the low \$300,000s. Only 6 homes remaining. Open daily 10-6. 707-451-3525

121 Hampton Park
From \$307,000. Less than 100 homes remaining. Active adult community. A single story home with 1,300 to 1,800 sq. ft. 2 & 3 bedrooms. Open daily 10-6. 707-451-3525

VALLEJO

122 Hiddenbrooke
From the high \$300,000s. Tour 24 MODEL HOMES surrounded by scenic hills and over 700 acres of dedicated open space. Resort-style amenities include an 18-hole, Arnold Palmer design golf course, beautiful clubhouse with pool and fitness facility, hiking trails and more. Take American Canyon exit off I-80 to Hiddenbrooke Pkwy. www.visithiddenbrooke.com

126 Harbor Homes
Elegant Waterfront Townhomes - From \$378,000 (everything included) 1,815 to 2,085 sq. ft. 3 & 4 BR & 3 BA 2-car garage, many pre-installed upgraded features included in price. Designed by award-winning architect. Sales open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 707-558-8999. 101 Sho Dr. West, Glen Cove, Glen Cove Pkwy. off Hwy 108. M. S. Regatta Dr. Whitehouse Dr. www.harborhomes.com

125 The Village
Priced from the mid \$600,000s. Furnished Models for Sale! Located in the master planned golf course community of Hiddenbrooke. The Village is a charming neighborhood inspired by the art of Thomas Knudsen. As the only gated community in Hiddenbrooke, The Village features floor plans reminiscent of 1920's architecture with up to 2,637 sq. ft. Open daily 10-6. For information call 707-558-8999. www.tajaywoodcreek.com

127 Vintage Hiddenbrooke
From the low \$500,000s. Now Selling. 3 & 4 bedroom Craftsman-style single family homes with a variety of options, 2,158-2,288 sq. ft. up to 4 bedrooms. Open daily 209-832-9400. www.holmanhomes.com. 209-839-9275

TAMALPAC CREEK

128 Tamarind Place
From the high \$500,000s. Ready to move in. Ten single family homes, close to city location. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths approx. 2,200 sq. ft

Classified

Montclarion, Piedmonter, Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

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Ad Starting: Tuesday
Open Home Guide: Friday
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*Fax copy deadline 1 hour prior to publication.

1516 Oak Street, Alameda
(Real Estate Fax 748-1666)

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VALLEY SPRINGS new hms on 1/2-5 acs, under const. Call for a list of homes from \$225,000 to \$559,000. Broker: 1-800-564-4455
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MAHAI, sacrifice RCI red. 2bd \$3000 + 3 wks. Use to start. 510-464-4643

Condos & Townhouses for Sale
CONCORD 180/2BA, 1070 sq ft, \$280K. 1531 Schenone Ct. #7. Consumer Realty. 925-687-0714
CONCORD-RARE OPPORT. 180/1BA, Pvt. Secure, All new, Owner fin. \$315,000. Broker: 925-736-4738
DUBLIN CONDO 3BD/2BA, 1000 Ssq. 1041 1/2, 12848 McPeak Ln., 138741, 2 car gar, 2 car gar, fan more \$405,000. 925-920-3781
OAKLAND ON THE ESTUARY
WATERPARK LIVING Waterfront Lofting
NEW SELLER CLOSE 2875 Glascock St. Castro
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Manufactured Mobile Homes for Sale
JUST MARRIED Concord Dells MHP. By Owner. Move-in cond. 2bd/2ba + 2bd/1ba, spaces \$500 + \$510 Asking \$99,900. 925-200-2186 & 2195 Dells Dr. (925) 798-8938
REDUCED TO \$45,900 3BD/2BA, 1120 sq. ft. Pacheco Park (925) 680-6660/459-0743
Alamo
WESTSIDE Alamo home on 76 acs, 480/3BA + ofc. & 4 car gar, 4011 Garden. N. grt. schs. Top nrhd. \$1,495,000. 925-936-1844

Berkeley
2300 Claremont Blvd. Charming traditional home has 5 bdrms/3 full bth, approx. 2608 sq. ft. w/ sunny rms w/french doors leading to garden. Liv. rm w/fric, formal din. eat-in kit, butler's pantry, Bonus rm. in basement. Side yard has lg. spa. Close to shopping, tennis club, transp. Claremont Hotel. \$1,300,000 coldwell Banker, Jerilyn. 925-253-4400
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WATERFRONT view, dock. Open Sat/Sun 12-5, 830. K.W. Retage, 925-200-4004
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480/3BA, 3 car gar, huge lot, model home, for sale. Brentwood, 510-703-4939
Clayton
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480/3BA, Oakhurst, Immac. Ground floor bdrm & bath. New cuts in farm rm & dwlstrs, bdrms, lg. w/ oak & tile accents. Lg. master w/huge closet. Open Sun. 1-4, 5133 Kelder Ridge Dr. James 415-716-0118 F890

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A HOME FOR GRANDMA Open Sunday 1-4. 2085 Grand Ave. = \$80,000. SPACIOUS 2BD/2BA For active Seniors (55+) Parklike setting + clubhouse. Apt. Kevin 925-995-0422
BEAUTIFUL 2-VL, cust. bit htm, 4bd/2ba, approx. 2500sq. ft., cul-de-sac, friendly nrhd. There's still time to choose your colors! 1178 Victory Lane. Asking \$599,000. Broker 510-581-7685
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GREENBROOK 4bd/2ba updated, walk to schs/park/tennis. 87 Meeks Cir. \$749,500. 925-522-9995
HORSE LOVERS 1641 Lawrence Road. 925-672-7323
OPEN 1-4 SAT/SUN 103 St. Patrick Dr. 925-621-2126
COMMIT. REMO. IN/OUT. 480/2ba in Greenbrook. \$635,000. 925-938-1477

Kensington
OPEN Sun. 1-4, 2bd/2ba, 18 Norwood Ave. Views. \$599,000. 510-961-9133
Lafayette
3BD/2BA, 911 Oak St., Apt. Bonnie Lays Nevitt & Assoc. 925-998-8061
Martinez
5BD/2BA, Open Sat. 1-4pm, 120 Warren St. Adams Pl., 3bd 2ba below mt. value. Seller to sell. ASAP 510-701-9255
MONTECALI \$945,000 new construction, beautiful Spanish style, 3bd, cnc. 2750 apt-of-the-line fin. (Subject to, Needs to sell. 6733 Sobarate Rd. Sun. 1-4, 510-926-6264
MONTECALI, Bay view, 3bd, frpic, deck gar. W/1775. 866-286-2637
MONTECALI, 580/3BA in-law. \$895,000. 510-339-3400

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4BD/2BA community pool/spa, RV storage, \$280K. By owner. 925-627-1771
3BD/2BA, seller credit \$5K for closing cost. Mint \$359K. Apt. 925-673-9360
480/2BA 1 story, 2 car gar upgrades, corner home. N. Pitt Hts. & Bart. \$305K. By Owner. 925-432-4352
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FSBO 680/3BA, huge yard & pool. Appr. \$750K. \$750K. Apt. 925-461-1912

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4BD/2BA, 2571 10th. Hiddenbrook. \$380K. 510-961-9133
NEW LISTING - C double car. 5 bdrms, 3 1/2 baths, spacious, 5200 sq. ft. Call for details. SAN PABLO HILLS 7-bd/1ba, \$329K, owner. 530-471-7777
San Ramon
EXCLUSIVE Trwns, 3bd, 3 1/2 baths. Steve War 510-926-6264
REDUCED 7955 Corral. Strategic location. Inexpensive appearance. Inexpensive rates. Inexpensive ship-shape yard. Formal. 1900 sf of 2000. Sherman & Co. \$255,000. 817-2000
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3BD/2BA, 2
appls. (u)

BD/1BA Dupl., 1250sf,
2nd St., W/D, fridge, sm.
yr., no pets, no smkg.
\$1500 925-413-1838

BD/2BA, 2 car gar., close
to park & shopping,
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grndr. 800-530-6859
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\$1600+ 3br/2ba
SHARP 3br
2 car gar.
Stove, Ref, A
Manor, \$1500
Depos. No sec
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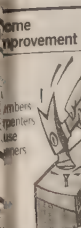
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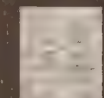
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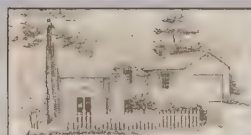
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NOLL overwhelms its SOLL rival in District 4 tourney

Game is called after 3½ innings after North Oakland jumps out to big lead

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — Baseball has a long history of intracity and regional rivalries. Thanks to a combination of perhaps fate and the seedings for the District 4 International Tournament 9-10 baseball playoffs, the North Oakland Little League/South Oakland Little League All-Star teams got into the spirit of that history at Rittler Park on Wednesday night. This installment of an in-

traleague rivalry was most lopsided, however, as the NOLL All-Stars beat their SOLL brethren 10-0 in a losers bracket game that ended after 3½ innings due to a 10-run rule.

North Oakland, which dropped into the losers bracket after falling to the Alameda Little League All-Stars the previous night, played again Thursday. South Oakland suffered its second tournament loss and was eliminated.

"This was the first time that NOLL/SOLL has had an All-Star team with AA kids on it, and it was great," South Oakland manager Aaron Prince said. "Tonight was a disappointment — we lost previously in the bottom of the

seventh to a team from Clayton Valley. But it was a great experience. It's great that we can reward kids who had great attitudes all season long."

For North Oakland, the game was an improvement over Tuesday's 7-4 loss to Alameda.

"We tried to work on our base running — we talked before the game that outs are a precious commodity and that we can't squander them like we did yesterday," NOLL manager Tom Courts said. "We got a lot of guys in, which was good, too."

There would be no squandering of opportunities by North Oakland in this game. The NOLL All-Stars scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning, then

added three more in each of the second and third innings.

Ryan Madden led off the North Oakland first by drawing a walk. All hands were safe when South Oakland committed an error on a Jason Finkelstein fielder's choice. Adam Austin then tripled home both Madden and Finkelstein. North Oakland quickly added to its lead when Austin scored on a wild pitch.

Andy Carlson singled and was erased on a Nick Wright fielder's choice. But Wright motored home with NOLL's fourth run when Langston Morris-Walker reached on a three-base error.

North Oakland remained productive in the second inning. Henry Platt reached on a one-out

error, stole second, advanced to third on Andy Carlson's fielder's choice and scored on a wild pitch for a 5-0 advantage.

Carlson, who advanced to second on an earlier wild pitch, went to third on the wild pitch that scored Platt. Nick Wright followed with a walk and went to second when South Oakland catcher Pete Baldwin opted to hold Carlson at third. Both runners came home, though, on Morris-Walker's single for a 7-0 lead.

In the third, Jake Shapiro led off with a double and went to third on an error. Willy Fogarty's infield out scored Shapiro, and Madden followed with a single.

Platt reached on an error to

put two runners on base. Both Madden and Platt scored when Carlson's fly ball to center field fell in untouched.

Four pitchers each worked one inning for North Oakland. Austin pitched a 1-2-3 first inning. Wright allowed two walks, but got out of trouble in the second. Shapiro gave up a hit and walk in the third. Fogarty gave up two walks before closing out the game in the top of the fourth.

"We're happy to preserve our pitching for whoever we have (Thursday)," Courts said. "If NOLL No. 2 wins today, we play them tomorrow in another brotherly battle."

See NOLL, Page 2



NEIL HAYES
Staff columnist

Canseco whiffs at same game

BAID NEWS FOR those willing to pay \$2,500 to spend an afternoon with Canseco at his South Florida estate.

The former A's slugger was arrested recently for a probation violation after testing positive for steroids.

There is good news.

Now you can speak with him during visiting hours at Alameda County jail for \$24.99. For \$34.99, you can carry his cell and chain around the exercise yard.

Few Bay Area athletic figures have had careers that included so many twists and turns, all of which Canseco negotiated in a Porsche at 120 mph.

There was always baggage on the speeding tickets, the

See HAYES, Page 2

Bombers fall to eventual champs

STAFF REPORT

The under-12 season of the San Diego Soccer Club Bombers' team ended Friday afternoon in a 1-0 loss to the San Diego Surf White in the semifinals of the U.S. Youth Soccer Association Region IV Championships in Honolulu.

The Surf White, which went on to win the regional title Saturday, controlled the ball for most of the match.

San Diego, which entered the tournament as the champion of the California Youth Soccer Association-South, outshot the Bombers 15-1 and scored the winning goal in the 50th minute.

Later on Friday, the local team Ho'okalakupua GFA of Honolulu defeated the CYSA South champion Pleasanton in a shootout in the day's first semifinal.

The teams played to a 2-2 draw through regulation, and the score remained tied through two overtime periods and 10 penalty kicks before Ho'okalakupua converted the 11th penalty kick and saved the game's attempt to win the game.

The San Diego Surf won the regional title by beating Ho'okalakupua 1-0 in Saturday's final.

In earlier action, the Bombers scored two goals in the first three minutes and held on for a 2-1 interlunary victory over GSC Arizal 91 of Gilbert, Ariz., Thursday afternoon.

Ahsha Smith took control of

See BOMBERS, Page 2

Mariners edge rival Astros



THE MARINERS' Alex Briskin scores as catcher Spencer Wood of the South Oakland Astros gets upended.

Veteran coach Bauch goes out on top

By Pete Elman
CORRESPONDENT

CLAYTON — It was 10 a.m. Saturday morning, the weather was already 90 degrees, and veteran North Oakland Little League Senior American coach Mike Bauch was contemplating the conclusion of a long, satisfying Little League career.

"I'm at peace," the usually voluble Bauch said before his very last game, as his Mariners took the field to play NOLL/SOLL rival Astros to determine the District 4 Junior Tournament of Champions winner.

"After 10 years, I'm ready to move on," Bauch said. "Win or lose, it's been a great run. This is, without a doubt, the best sea-

son I've had."

It was about to get better. In a thriller that came down to the very last pitch, his resilient Mariners squad (21-2) prevailed 7-6 over a gutsy Astros team (17-6) to take the title.

After coming from a 4-1 deficit to tie the game at 4-4 it and eventually go ahead 7-4, the Mariners were able to withstand a dramatic Astros rally and win the game. They also got bragging rights in the resurgent North Oakland Little League Senior American division.

The two teams were not only the best in NOLL/SOLL but absolutely dominant in the TOC, each team blowing out three opponents until they faced off for

all the marbles at Clayton Valley Community Field.

Although Bauch won the coin toss, he elected to be the visiting team and bat first, hoping to get on the board early and make the Astros play from behind. But the Astros did not play along.

After retiring the side in the top of the first behind lefty hurler Bryce Hufford, the Astros struck for three unearned runs in the bottom half.

Mariners starter Mike Martinez loaded the bases with one out and then induced what appeared to be a double-play ball off the bat of Theodus "Big T." Ambers.

See MARINERS, Page 2



NORTH OAKLAND'S Mike McNeill-Martinez fields a ground ball.



MIKE MCGREEHAN
Between the Lines

Battle not over yet for Phelps

THINK BACK TO those eighth grade civics lessons. Recall that the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896 affirmed the "separate but equal" doctrine regarding race relations in Plessy vs. Ferguson. Recall also that the court reversed itself in the Brown vs. Board of Education decision of 1954. And recall from 1962 when the high court turned thumbs-down on public school prayers in Engel vs. Vitale.

Supreme Court decisions are often controversial, most especially landmark decisions such as those noted above. Some even directly involve sports, such as the "Federal Base Ball Club of Baltimore, Inc. vs. National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs et al," which affirmed organized baseball's exemption from antitrust laws in 1922.

Last week's Stogner vs. California ruling — which rejected a California law allowing prosecution of decades-old child molestation cases — might not reverberate through the land for years to come. But it will have an immediate impact, especially in the world of East

See MCGREEHAN, Page 2

Webster heading to SDSU

STAFF REPORT

El Cerrito High's Kevin Webster has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at San Diego State.

"I had to go with (San Diego State coach and former major league star) Tony Gwynn," said Webster, a second baseman. "I can learn a lot of stuff from him. He was one of the best hitters in the (major leagues).

"(Education-wise, it's a good school also. If I wasn't playing baseball, I would have gone to that school anyway."

Webster said that he also considered Long Beach State and Oklahoma State before choosing the Aztecs. Webster said that he made an oral commitment in August with San Diego State.

Webster batted .450 during the regular season with an on-base percentage of .588 for the Gauchos, who reached the North Coast Section 2A East Bay championship game. Webster, a Richmond resident, was a second-team all-Times pick and a second-team all-Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League selection.

San Diego State finished with a 29-32 overall record last season.

Rainiers fall in title game, but it was a fun ride

■ Albany overcame 5-0 lead in semifinals against Clayton Valley before losing to Oakley in the District 4 championship

By Mike McGreehan
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — Though the Albany Little League Rainiers lost 4-3 to host East County in the District 4 senior division Tournament of Champions title game in Oakley on Saturday, the road to the final was most memorable.

Perhaps etched in the memory of the Rainiers players for years to come will be their performance in their semifinal against the Clayton Valley Little League A's at Memorial Park two days earlier.

In that game, the Rainiers overcame a 5-0 deficit to post an 8-5 win and a place in Saturday's final.

The Rainiers tied the score with five runs in the top of the fifth inning, then won the game with three more in the seventh.

After managing just two hits off A's starting pitcher Nick Cumul through the first four innings, the Rainiers took advantage of reliever Stephen Ross' inability to find the plate in the fifth. Albany needed just one hit, a two-run single by Kevin Klotz, to help its rally.

Ben Petrofsky drew a leadoff walk and all runners were safe when Steven Gee followed with a fielder's choice. One-out walks to Alec Jossens, Aaron McCreary and Miguel Panigua brought Petrofsky and Gee home with Albany's first two runs. Klotz then singled home Jossens and McCreary, and the Rainiers suddenly found themselves within one run of the A's.

After Marcelo Munoz walked to reload the bases, Cumul moved back to the pitcher's

mount from shortstop. Cumul's second pitching stint did not prove immediately successful, as Patrice Azi got hit by a pitch to force in the tying run. But Cumul retired the next two to end the threat.

The Rainiers went down 1-2-3 in the top of the sixth, but finally got to Cumul — likely tiring — in the seventh.

Panigua drew a leadoff walk and came home with the go-ahead run when Klotz followed with a triple. Cumul struck out the next two batters, but Tommy Harkins walked to put runners at the corners. Moments later, Klotz scored on a well-executed double steal with Harkins taking second. A single by Gee brought Harkins home with the tying run.

Winning pitcher Nick Petrovich set the A's down in order in the bottom of the inning.

"I knew in my heart that these boys would come back," Rainiers manager Carlos Munoz said.

"They've done that all season."

The end of that season looked as if it would come soon as Clayton Valley scored three runs off starting pitcher Gee in the first inning, then added two more in the second.

The left-handed Petrovich, however, proved puzzling to the A's over the final five innings. Petrovich struck out seven and walked just one. He yielded just one hit, a two-out double to Cumul in the fifth. Only two other runners reached base against Petrovich, one on an error and another on a fielder's choice — both in the sixth inning.

"If Nick doesn't have it, then Steve has it, and vice versa," manager Munoz said of his pitchers. "They play well off each other."

Surely, the formula — with the help of patience at the plate and some timely hits — worked well for the Rainiers in their most memorable semifinal.

Community Theater

Area stages take a dramatic pause to celebrate the Fourth of July. Page C3

'Reflections in Black'

■ Amphitheater at Clear Lake's Konotchi Harbor drawing huge crowds for A-List performers. Page C3

Multimedia Notes

■ Television, video-game systems are too often replacing books and toys. Page C3

Let's all go to the lobby

■ Showtimes and a roundup of reviews are your guide to an outing at the cinema. Page C4

Major Yankees cap 27-1 season with TOC championship

By Scott Strain

STAFF WRITER

ALAMEDA — For Josh "Yogi" Varinsky and his South Oakland Yankees teammates, "it ain't over 'til it's over."

Now, it's over. Varinsky went 5-for-5, including a three-run home run, and drove in three runs as South Oakland became the first Oakland team to win the District 4 Majors division Tournament of Champions title with a five-inning 13-3 victory over the Antioch East Pirates on Saturday at Rittler Park.

"I've checked around," assistant coach Jim Balich said, "and no one can remember a majors team winning a TOC title." And Balich himself goes back a few years with the North Oakland/South Oakland organization.

Not only did the Yankees win, but the victory gave the team the distinction of being the most successful team in Oakland majors history, finishing 27-1.

"Our game plan coming in was that we knew we needed to

score a lot of runs, and we did that," South Oakland head coach Alan Banks Sr. said. "We needed to get four innings from (pitcher Matthew) Kaufman and we did that. And we had to get our 11-year-old, Powell Fansler, into the game. He was tremendous. In fact, if the game was going to go another inning, we would have left him in there."

It didn't come to that. Ahead 12-3 in the bottom of the fifth, the Yankees strung together three straight two-out hits to win the game. Alan Banks Jr. got an infield hit and Matt Balich lined a single to left. Varinsky hit the first pitch he saw from Antioch reliever Sam Martinez into left and the game was over.

"I wasn't nervous," Varinsky said. "I've been playing a lot of baseball and my swings were real good today."

The only concern South Oakland had coming into this game was that it's one-two pitching punch of Matt Balich and Thomas Mora, which had led the team to three victories, was out

of innings. The Yankees went with Kaufman, who had not previously pitched in the TOC. But Banks Sr. expressed confidence in his right-hander.

It was not misplaced. Kaufman gave up three runs on four hits in four innings but was never behind. He gave up a solo home run to Tyler Buchanan in the second and another to Johannes Clark in the fourth when Antioch East scored two runs. By that time the score was 9-1 South Oakland.

The Yankees jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first when leadoff hitter Banks walked and went to second on a wild pitch. One out later Varinsky lashed a single to left, but Banks was caught in a rundown between third and home and retired. Varinsky went to second on a wild pitch and Mora was intentionally walked. James Singer walked to load the bases and Ted Shryock walked to force in Varinsky with the first South Oakland run. Mora scored the second run on an error.

In the second inning, the Yan-

kees sent 10 men to plate and scored four runs to take a 6-1 lead. Cameron Corwin was safe on an error and Banks sent him to second with a fly ball single to center. Both runners advanced on the throw back to the infield.

Balich grounded to short, and Antioch East shortstop Percy Campbell threw to third to retire Banks. Corwin scored on the play. Varinsky singled to left to advance Balich and Mora was intentionally walked again to load the bases.

This didn't sit well with Singer, the No. 5 hitter. "It did make me angry, and I didn't do that well," Singer said. "Thomas (Mora) is a great hitter and you can't blame them for doing that (walking him)."

Singer, however, made the Pirates pay by lining a single up the middle to drive in Balich and Varinsky. Shryock popped a single to center to reload the bases and Kaufman walked to force in Mora with the fourth run of the inning.

Joe Vonderlinden, Antioch

East's big right-hander, came in to close the inning with two strikeouts, but that was it for him. The Pirates got caught up in a numbers game and he could only go one inning.

"I know they wanted to use him (Vonderlinden) as a closer if they got the lead," Banks said. "But they had to bring him in that situation to stanch the flow of runs. It didn't help."

South Oakland really took command in the third. Banks singled to second and Balich lined a single to center before Varinsky smacked a 2-0 pitch over the left-field fence for a 9-1 lead. The Yankees loaded the bases after that, but the Pirates were able to get out of the inning without any further damage.

Antioch East scored two runs in the fourth on Clark's homer and a run-scoring hit by Anthony Ahedo for 9-3, but a lot of the resiliency of the Antioch East team disappeared after what happened next.

Justin Meier, batting after Ahedo, fouled a ball off his foot.

It came up fast, hitting him in the left cheek and grazing his eye. The Pirates player collapsed, home plate as the coaching of both teams and administrators from the Alameda tournament staff rushed to his side. Varinsky, Meier remained on the ground for about 20 minutes before being able to get to his feet.

He had to leave the game was taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure. Matthews, one of the Oakland administrators, looked to be OK. Kaufman, out the next batter for the Pirates.

South Oakland added more runs in the bottom fourth, two scoring on a single and the final one on a single by Varinsky.

Fansler came into pitch in the fifth and struck out one before walking Buchanan. Then a soft liner back to Fansler threw to Balich at first to double up Buchanan.

Then came Banks, Balich's final hit by Varinsky for the final run.

Hayes

FROM PAGE 1

well-publicized spats with ex-wife Esther and his not-so-secret rendezvous with Madonna were prime tabloid fodder and part of his larger-than-life persona.

He redefined athletic celebrity with his 1-900 numbers and sex appeal. He was one part ballplayer and three parts rock star, but nobody minded as long as he inspired awe on the field.

Dennis Rodman proved the American sporting public will put up with just about anything as long as an athlete does his job in the arena.

That's where Canseco went careening off the road to the Hall of Fame. That's where the disconnect occurred. An athlete's celebrity is based strictly on performance. You can't become bigger than the game without understanding that the game is bigger than you.

Canseco is an athlete who reinvented himself as a celebrity. But for athletes to achieve long-lasting fame they must keep reinventing themselves as athletes.

Canseco never did that. Instead, he became a bloated caricature of himself and an easy target for ridicule.

Michael Jordan understood that without his mastery on the basketball floor his entire empire would crumble from within. Everything he accomplished outside the game was

contingent on what he accomplished in the game.

If Tiger Woods wants to ensure the success of his clothing line he must focus first and foremost on his golf game. He's not as valuable a spokesperson for Buick if he was to suffer from a prolonged case of the yips.

A's fans will never forget when Canseco was pulled off the on-deck circle and traded to the Texas Rangers in 1992.

What came next was pathetic and/or funny, depending on your personal level of cynicism.

There was the Carlos Martinez fly ball that doinked off his head and over the fence for a home run, a blooper for all eternity.

He blew out his arm a few days later after begging his manager to allow him to pitch in a lopsided game.

From there he bounced from team to team, his famed all-or-nothing swing producing more nothing than all, and that's when he was healthy enough to play, which wasn't often.

His quest for 500 home runs ended at 462. He was arrested for a brawl outside a South Beach nightclub and was placed under house arrest after he failed to meet the terms of his probation.

He claimed he was blackballed from baseball (gee, Jose, do you think that might have anything to do with steroid use?) and was planning a tell-all book that would claim, among other things, that 85

percent of pro ballplayers use steroids.

Canseco always has lived a highly publicized life. His moneymaking scheme while under house arrest made national headlines.

The only thing we don't know about him is how he will be remembered. But we've got a good idea.

Canseco became the first player in major-league history to hit 40 home runs and steal 40 bases in the same season. He was 24 years old at the time.

Would he approach his career differently if he could somehow return to that moment in time? Would he have worked harder on his defense? Would he make his manager and teammates continually question his commitment to the game and to his own awesome talent?

Hearing his frank answers to those questions would make spending an afternoon with him worthwhile — as long as someone else was footing the bill, of course.

Now Canseco's attorney blames the presence of steroids in her client's urine on a "misunderstanding," although she doesn't explain how bodily fluids can possibly be misunderstood.

She also claims that his arrest proves that he is a victim of his celebrity. That's where she's wrong.

Jose Canseco isn't a victim of his celebrity, but his baseball career sure was.

McGreehan

FROM PAGE 1

Bay prep basketball.

In January, Bishop O'Dowd High School placed longtime boys basketball coach Mike Phelps on paid administrative leave while authorities investigated child molestation allegations against him. In February, Phelps was arraigned on two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor stemming from alleged incidents in 1966 and 1967. Phelps pleaded not guilty to the charges.

As expected on Monday, the Alameda County Superior Court in Alameda — in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's action of June 26 — dismissed all charges against Phelps, the winningest basketball coach in California high school history.

A sliver of good news for Phelps, perhaps, whose ordeal is far from over.

For folks like Phelps, the U.S. Supreme Court decision is both a blessing and a curse. On one hand, Phelps is free from prosecution, though civil lawsuits remain a possibility. On the other hand, Phelps didn't get his day in court. He wasn't able to refute the charges made against him in a public forum. Phelps' future as both a teacher and coach remains unclear. Ultimately, his fortunes are in the hands of Bishop O'Dowd and the Oakland Dio-

cese.

For the record, the Supreme Court's decision in Stogner vs. California was correct. With all due respect to the alleged victims of these alleged crimes, there are some people who can't remember what they had for dinner last night let alone recall detailed facts from more than 35 years ago. How could their testimony be reliable?

Also, many of the accused — like Phelps — have gone on to earn much respect during the many years after the alleged child molestation incidents. Should lapses in judgment from, say, one's late teens or early 20s forever stain one's life and reputation? And if convicted, does it make sense to send one to prison so many years after the fact?

Surely, Phelps has much support within the O'Dowd community. During the basketball season, boys and girls basketball players, their fellow students and many of the parents sported black T-shirts that read, "This is for Phelps," on the back.

Support has come from outside O'Dowd, too, from the greater high school basketball community and from former players and students dating back to his days at St. Joseph (now St. Joseph Notre Dame) in the 1970s.

One of Phelps' two alleged victims is dead. The other reportedly lives in San Leandro.

Bombers

FROM PAGE 1

a loose ball in front of the Arsenal net, dribbled in and scored to put Bay Oaks on the board in the second minute. Moments later, Caitlin Bresnahan received a pass from Ashley Assayag and one-time shot that found the net for a 2-0 lead.

Arizona cut the lead to one

with a goal in the fifth minute but could get no closer. Arizona's goal was the first scored against the Bombers in the tournament.

Kay Williams made eight saves for Bay Oaks.

The Bombers did not give up any goals in group play, which ended in a 0-0 draw with the Pleasanton Rage on Wednesday. The Bombers, who lost to Pleasanton in the CYSA-North State Cup final in March, entered

Wednesday's match fresh with wins of 5-0 over the Avalon of Sandy, Utah, and 6-0 over Gillette Edge Wild Things of Wyoming in their first two group play matches.

Overall, the Bombers outscored their opponents 11-0. Esther Leon had five goals. Eva Hicks added three. Stacey and Bresnahan scored a piece. Madison Ornstal added one goal in the tournament.

NOLL

FROM PAGE 1

Jason Lee had South Oakland's only hit, a check-swing single in the third. Nick Prince and Zack Isaacs walked in the second. Elan Bernstein drew a walk in the third. Sam Edie and Sam Zabb-Parmlee drew the fourth-inning walks for SOLL.

Alameda 7, North Oakland 4:

The Alameda Little League All-Stars took an early lead, saw it slip away, then rallied to win with four runs in the bottom of the fifth in this second-round game at Alameda's Rittler Park on Tuesday.

"Our boys showed a lot of maturity," Alameda manager Daryl Thomas said. "They didn't get down on themselves too much."

Alameda led 3-1 when North Oakland looked to take control in the top of the fifth inning. Joey

Catanzarite led off by reaching on an error and Ryan Ma walked two batters later. Joey Finkelstein followed with a single, and an errant throw allowed Catanzarite and Maddox to score. Finkelstein raced to third in a game now tied at 3-3.

The score did not stay tied long, though, as Adam As singled home Finkelstein to tie North Oakland its first — only — lead of the game as

Mariners

FROM PAGE 1

Ambers hit a comebacker to the mound, but the ball took a bad hop under Martinez's glove and everyone was safe. Martinez then threw a wild pitch to the backstop and compounded the problem by not covering the plate, allowing two more runs to score.

In the third, the Mariners got on the board when speedy leadoff hitter Alex Briskin walked, took second on a base hit by Jake Bauch, and scored when Martinez singled him home.

The Astros responded in their half of the inning when consecutive singles by Daniel Koches, Hufford and Griffin Lee scored another run to make it 4-1. However, with runners on first and third and none out, Hufford remained at third as the Mariners turned a 1-6-3 double play.

The Mariners, who led the league in scoring, broke loose in the fourth. With two out and the bases empty, consecutive singles by Kyle Bonacum, Briskin (2-for-

3, three runs) and Bauch (2-for-3, two runs) loaded the bases.

Martinez (2-for-3, four RBI) then lined a double to the gap in right center, clearing the bases and tying the game at 4-4.

Bauch, who was catching, and Martinez switched roles for the bottom of the fourth. With one out, the Astros' Spencer Wood (3-for-3, one run) doubled to left center. Sean DeWolf then lined to short left, where Mariners outfielder Elmo Huth appeared to catch it.

But the ball bounced off his glove and dropped to his feet. Wood, who had stayed close to second, broke for third and was thrown out by several feet.

"I felt like we gave up a couple of runs on the bases — I made a couple of mistakes over there at third base," Astros coach Jeff Wood said after the game.

After a scoreless fifth, the Mariners broke the tie in the sixth inning. With one out and Spencer Wood now pitching in relief of Hufford, Briskin, who was thrown out stealing only once all year, singled and stole second; it was a very close play, a perfect throw

from DeWolf — now catching — arriving a tad late.

Bauch then drilled a grounder up the middle. Briskin, who always gets the green light to run, darted toward home but Hufford, now in center, charged the ball and threw a strike to Wood, who was the cutoff man.

Briskin, seeing that he would be out by a good margin, stopped 20 feet before home plate and Wood instinctively threw to DeWolf at the plate. But the throw was high and rolled 50 feet to the backstop, scoring Briskin and allowing Bauch to go all the way to third.

Martinez then walked and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Byron Lichenstein (3-for-4, two RBI), the Mariners' big first baseman, smashed a single to right, driving in two runs, and the Mariners led 7-4.

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Arts



BILL MANN
Multimedia Notes

Modern family home life: as seen on TV?

PORTLAND, ORE. — There was something odd about the modern, four-room tract home in suburban Troutdale. As we walked through it with my son and his wife, who are buying the house, I was doing an inspection, but nothing didn't seem right. It wasn't just the sterility of the place, which was decorated like a Holiday Inn. But this was a 10-year-old boy's home, and I didn't see a single toy. What I did see was eight different video-game systems. Another thing we didn't see: A single book in the whole house. The last piece of the puzzle fell into place: The house has no rooms. We counted seven divisions.

Is this the way kids are being raised today, we wondered? Are they just being entertained completely by video games and TV, with no enrichment at all from books? I'm afraid this had become too common. Which helps to explain much of our declining society, one that entrusts television to give citizens "meaningful" information.

This house was every bit as risqué as the visit last summer I recounted here from a 9-year-old boy, a relative from out of state and a video addict who literally could not fall asleep unless a TV was on nearby. That was dismaying enough, but this Portland episode was just as bad. How could anyone raise a child in a home with only video and no books and no toys? Novelist Gore Vidal once observed that the U.S. was the world's first "post-literate" society, one in which "people can read, but don't."

The couple who owned the tract house were white-collar workers who, presumably, read. But they didn't, and apparently, neither did their 9-year-old son. A huge TV in their living room was emblematic: It was so big it looked like an extra window — a window, one could say, to nowhere.

THE BEST IN TALK: Passing through Seattle, I again had the opportunity to listen to what may well be the best radio talk-show host in the country. You may have heard Dave Ross' delightful, tongue-in-cheek commentaries for the KIRO radio network here on Friday at 2:35 and 5:35 p.m. But hearing the tiny, resolutely apolitical Ross on his home station of KIRO 770 (710 AM) for three hours at a time is a rare treat in these times when most talk radio is raucous and argumentative.

Ross celebrated the opening of Seattle's new opera house this week by offering two tickets — plus a free ride to the gala — to the first caller who could identify a snippet of an unknown opera plus the name of the song. The answer was the "Prelude" from Gilbert & Sullivan's wonderful "Iolanthe," an opera San Francisco's world-renowned Lamplighters stage at the Lesh Center on July 21-23.

Who's the singer? Dave Ross. He was singing in Walnut Creek.

FEDERAL MATTERS: The Washington Post recently ran one of its clever reader-participation contests, and this one had suggestions for mottos for federal agencies. Among winners:

Dept. of the Interior: "When It Rains, It Pours." Bureau of Consumer Protection: "Got Bilk?" IRS: "Complete Workshop Form 483(b) to See If We're Being Audited."

Postal Service: "When It Rains, It Pours." Secret Service: "Only 5343 Ain't Bad." CIA: "The White Swans North for the Potatoes." Happy Fourth!

Questions or comments? e-mail Newsmann@sonic.net.



SHERRY LAVARS/TIMES

CONCERT GOERS in the stadium seats at the Konocti Field Amphitheater have a view of the stage as well as the expansive Clear Lake.

Konocti singing a groovy tune

By Tony Hicks
STAFF WRITER

COUNTRY STAR Keith Urban stood atop a breezy hill, before 5,000 noisy fans on what used to be a lonely, weed-covered softball field.

Urban, country music's Jon Bon Jovi look-alike, looked around and spread his arms between the steep tree-covered mountain on his right and the wide blue lake on his left. "Check out the view from up here," he called. "Is this the best place in the world or what?"

The crowd roared in agreement. But while the view from the amphitheater is indeed impressive, it is the A-list entertainment that these days draws visitors to Konocti Harbor, a resort on Clear Lake, nestled in the winding mountains north of the Napa Valley.

Upgraded status

Once derided as the venue that booked fading rock and country acts on the county fair circuit, Konocti has become a player in the Northern California concert scene. The 2003 summer schedule features acts that would not be out of place at the Chronicle Pavilion or Shoreline Amphitheatre: Bob Dylan, Steely Dan, Goo Goo Dolls, Loretta Lynn, Melissa Etheridge, Kenny Chesney, Third Eye Blind, Toby Keith, Chris Isaak, B.B. King and Jeff Beck.



BEFORE THE CONCERT headliner begins, clockwise from left, John Nylander, Wilma Nylander, Terri Tuttle and Mark Comer enjoy the shady patio area.

"They've really upgraded their schedule, and it's far enough away from the Bay Area that artists can play both places," says Gary Bongiovanni, editor of Pollstar, the concert industry trade magazine. "Actually, it's kind of amazing. The amphitheater has made the difference."

The 5,000-seat amphitheater is part of the rebuilding project general manager Greg Bennett undertook in 1990, a year after Konocti founder and union leader Joe Mazzola died.

On the shore of a natural inlet between the lake and very vertical Mount Konociti, Mazzola built the resort in 1959 as a seasonal retreat for members of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union

Local 38. Bennett came in, renovated facilities, opened the doors year-round and began booking musical acts.

"I took over in April and we booked our first show in September," says Bennett, whose background includes similar resort-rebuilding jobs in Vail, Colo., and Jackson Hole, Wyo. "The first one was Leon Russell. We took a dining room, put up a stage, popped a hole in the wall for a dressing room and we were off and running."

Since then, Bennett has concentrated on upgrading Konocti's facilities as well as its concert lineup. Konocti's gone from a 300-seat dining room to having the aforementioned amphitheater

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Konocti Harbor resort and concert venue
- **WHERE:** 8727 Soda Bay Road, Kelseyville, about five miles of Highway 29
- **CONTACT:** 800-660-5253, www.konoctiharbor.com

as well as a 1,000-capacity indoor concert "showroom." And, slowly but steadily, Konocti has succeeded in drawing A-list names to its upgraded venue and pleasant surroundings.

"Getting Dylan was difficult," he says. "Getting Steely Dan was equally difficult, because they're very image conscious. But for 14 years we've planted the seeds."

A convenient getaway

Konocti's about 100 miles from Contra Costa County: a scenic 2½-hour drive through wine country and up over a winding mountain road. The resort has 250 rooms, 50 of which are taken up by performers on big weekends. And while some fans package a Konocti show around a weekend at the lakeside resort, the majority of the concert crowds come primarily for the music.

"We go to shows in Oakland and San Francisco, but we'd rather come here," said 17-year-old Jessica Hultberg, who drove over from Ukiah for the recent

See KONOCTI, Page C5

Naming of Old Glory an inspired event

WITH NUMEROUS stages dark tonight, their performances closed for observance of Independence Day, I looked for a way to begin today's column with a touch of theatrics that would still reflect the theme of July Fourth.

I came across the name William Driver (1803-1886) in a single entry in Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations." He was a man of the sea — not an actor, not a dramatist. But on Aug. 10, 1831, he assumed something of each of those roles in one inspired moment.

On that day, a band of women presented a large American flag to Driver, captain of the brig Charles Doggett.

It was their way of thanking him for bringing the mutineers of the ship *Bounty* from Tahiti back to their former home, Pitcairn Island.

As the flag was hoisted to the masthead of his brig, Driver looked aloft and proclaimed:

"I name thee Old Glory." What staging! What a line! And that's the story of how the flag we honor today got its poetic name. The original Old Glory is now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Okay, folks, back to business.

FREE, 'QUIETER' FIREWORKS: If you want another free show tomorrow and Sunday after tonight's dazzling



JACK TUCKER
Community Theater

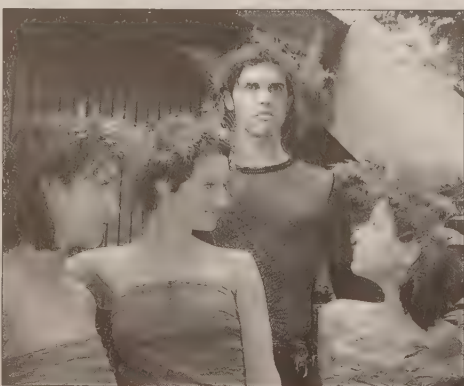
fireworks displays, here's something to think about. Actors Ensemble of Berkeley has two performances left in its run of "The Bacchae" in John Hinkel Park off Arlington Boulevard in North Berkeley.

One of Euripides' most lyrical as well as thematically difficult plays, "The Bacchae," directed by David Stein, is a classic Greek tragedy making an argument for moderation over pure reason or pure sensuality.

The woodsy park setting won't be as noisy and flashy as fireworks, but the Bacchae — the female companions of Bacchus — can ignite other shockers with the themes of wine, women and paganism in this "summer solstice celebration" as AE bills it.

Remember, it's free; starts at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday; lasts about two hours, so you should be home before dark. Bring a blanket, beach chairs and refreshments. Call 510-525-1620.

'WYRD' STRETCH OUT: "The Wyrd Sisters," a new comedy from Central Works in-



CONTRIBUTED

CHERE SAGER, left, Kendra Oberhauser and Emily Jordan plot revenge on Pentheus, while Dionysus (Ross Pasquale) presides over the tale of wine, women and paganism.

fluenced (somewhat) by Shakespeare's "Macbeth," has had its run extended through July 27 at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave.

That means it will not be transferring to San Francisco's Thick House as originally scheduled. However, Central Works will produce three shows there in a residency over the next three years.

Written by Gary Graves and directed by Jan Zvaifler, "The Wyrd Sisters" features Rica Anderson, Claudia Rosa and Sandra Schlechter — the same team that gave us last year's

"King Lear"-inspired "Every Inch a King" at La Val's Subterranean in Berkeley.

No "Wyrd" performance tonight or July 24; otherwise, catch it at 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, or 5 p.m. Sundays, through July 27. Tickets are \$8-\$20 on a sliding scale. Call 510-558-1381.

'POND' CLIMES ABOARD: We can add two more shows to the four mentioned last Friday, all opening on the same jam-packed night next week — Friday, July 11.

See THEATER, Page C5



CONTRIBUTED

GRETE STEINER took up watercolor painting five years ago at the age of 88.

Artist, 93, exhibits new passion

By Brian Kluepfel
CORRESPONDENT

What began rather innocently has become something of an obsession for Grete Steiner.

Five years ago, a fellow resident of Steiner's assisted-living home in Alameda mentioned an upcoming watercolor painting class. Grete went, and has barely put her brush down since, producing an amazing body of work: more than 200 paintings, by her estimate.

Not bad for someone who didn't start her art career until age 88.

"In the beginning I was terrible," she claims. "But after a short time, it developed into a nice hobby."

Now 93, Grete puts the emotions and experiences of a lifetime which began in Vienna, Austria, in 1910, into her work. Genuine and self-effacing, the only trace of anger that flashes in her lively gray eyes is the mention of her family's enforced departure from Europe in 1939. "That still makes me so angry," she said.

She has returned twice to the city of her birth since the war years, and remains enchanted by it. "I saw a TV program just the other day on Vienna, and it's just how I remember it!" she enthused. "I realized what a gorgeous, interesting city it is."

It was in Austrian art galleries that an appreciation for art stirred in young Grete. "I loved to look at paintings, to go to museums," she said.

Hints of Europe still crop up in her vivid watercolor work, often in street scenes of muted browns and grays. One of the more elegant pieces in the Fertile Grounds show depicts a corner wine shop on a cobblestone road. Some of these snapshot pieces come from her memory, she says, and some from her imagination.

"I never wake up in the morning with a certain idea of what I'm going to paint," she said. "It's just spontaneous."

She continues to attend regular painting classes at the nursing home, as well as picking up tips from a Saturday morning painting show on television.

Continued practice has brought a refined sensibility to her work in a short period.

"I paint every day," she says. "Memories, fantasies; sometimes I copy something."

Seated at a table in her apartment, she sits for an hour or two at a time — after her daily routine of reading the newspaper — and reaches into her imagination for a story to tell on paper. She often begins by sketching out ideas in pencil, and then painting.

She has some help in the process. Her daughter Eva Yarmo, a long-time Berkeley resident, buys Grete the paper and paints to maintain her hobby.

Grete laughs and calls Eva her agent — "but very poorly paid!" — and jokes that this will be her last show (the first was displayed in Berkeley's Margaret Anderson Gallery in 2002).

"I was thrilled," said Grete of her public shows. "I never thought I could make things that people are interested in. I got a big kick out of it."

See STEINER, Page C5

PAINTING EXHIBIT

WHAT: Watercolor paintings by Grete Steiner

WHERE: Fertile Grounds Cafe, Shattuck & Delaware, Berkeley

WHEN: Through July 13

TICKETS: Free admission

NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler, Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Chrissy Lemire, Ben Nuckols, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell and A.O. Scott, New York Times; Jack Matthews, New York Daily News; Evan Henerson, Bob Strauss, Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Chris Vognar, Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; Jay Boyar, Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Baitake, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM": This genial ethnic sports comedy directed by Gurinder Chadha was a big hit in Britain last year. Jess (Parminder Nagra) is the younger daughter in a family of middle-class Punjabi immigrants residing in a London suburb. Her passion for soccer puts her at odds with her parents, who think sports are an improper pastime for an almost-grown teenager with marriage and university to think about. The result is a culture clash that becomes more and more complicated until the soccer match comes along to sort it all out. — A.O. Scott. (PG-13: language, sexual content.) 1

hour, 52 minutes. C-

"BRUCE ALMIGHTY": After local TV reporter Bruce (Jim Carrey) gets fired, he complains so much about his lot in life that God (Morgan Freeman) decides to teach him a lesson. Granted God's powers, the reporter gives himself the ultimate scoop (he finds the body of [Jimmy Hoffa]), turns his girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston) into a panting she-cat and generally takes very good care of himself. We're supposed to think this a wonderful insincere life (there's even a clip of the Jimmy Stewart classic at one point), but as rendered by Carrey, Bruce is just a whining, despicable, unworthy bore. Carrey, returning to comedy after trying his hand at drama to minimal box office success, seems shut off from human contact. You look into his eyes and see only rage. Not the best recipe for an allegedly feel-good movie. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, sexual content and some crude humor.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. C-

"CAPTURING THE FRIEDMANS": If you're at a cocktail party this summer and you're chatting with two other people who've just discovered that they've both seen this fascinating new documentary from novice director Andrew Jarecki, consider yourself conversationally dead in the water. The only reasonable solution is to get out and see it for yourself so you can join in the debate about the Friedmans, a Long Island family that fell apart in the late 1990s after the dad was accused of sexually molesting a

dozen or so neighborhood boys. Was he railroaded? Did he do it? You decide. You won't leave feeling cheery, but this roller coaster of a film is deeply challenging. — M. Pols. (NR) 1 hour, 47 minutes. A

"CHICAGO": Why was it again that Hollywood stopped making movie musicals? Who decided we shouldn't leave a theater humming that catchy tune, fighting the urge to tap dance our way across the lobby? "Chicago" is the kind of uplifting, exhilarating movie that makes you ask these questions. Vastly talented Renee Zellweger even manages to up-stage David Catherine Zeta-Jones in this tawdry tale, originally based on true-crime cases and later made into a Broadway musical. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and dialogue, violence and thematic elements.) 1 hour, 53 minutes. A

"DADDY DAY CARE": Mild, sweet and family-friendly, the quintessential in-flight movie. Eddie Murphy, his propensity for filthy raw humor completely neutered, stars as a marketing executive too busy to pay much attention to his adorable little boy (Oakland native Khamani Griffin). When he and his best buddy (Jeff Garlin) get laid off and become stay-at-home dads, they decide to open a day-care center. Lots of jokes about Ritalin and dirty diapers follow. The weird thing is, the once-groovy Murphy has become almost too gracious with sharing the punch lines. — M. Pols. (PG: language.) 1 hour, 33 minutes. C+

"THE DANCER UPSTAIRS": In this pleurably nerve-jangling thriller, Spanish actor Javier Bardem plays a tender-eyed cop named Agustín Rejas trying to track down a mysterious terrorist in a highly corrupt South American country. Written by Nicholas Shakespeare, who adapted the screenplay from his novel, and directed with confident flair by actor John Malkovich, this film involves Rejas' two-track inquiry into a spasm of terrorism and, rather less satisfactorily for us, the uneasy stirrings of the policeman's heart. Like the book, this is partly based on the hunt for Abimael Guzman, founder of Peru's notorious Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). — M. Dargis. (R: strong violence and language.) 2 hour, 9 minutes. B-

"DOWN WITH LOVE": A fairly winning new romantic comedy that could be right out of the Restoration Hardware catalogue, a stylistic homage to the '60s Doris Day-Rock Hudson comedies. Renee Zellweger is Barbara Novak, author of a shocking new feminist treatise that proposes women who want to get ahead should put aside love. It's a huge publishing hit, but it hampers the sex life of cocky journalist Catcher Blake (McGregor), who decides to prove that Barbara is a squishy love nut at heart. Clever retro-style editing really works, the sexual innuendo and banter fly like the Concorde; and Catcher's sidekick, David Hyde Pierce, has exquisite comic timing. But the combination of McGregor's creepy shark smile and Zellweger's weirdly puffy face is off-putting and the freshness runs out before the end arrives. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual humor and dialogue.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B-

"DUMB AND DUMBERER: WHEN HARRY MET LLOYD": Peter and Bobby Farrelly, the ingeniously bent brothers behind the original "Dumb and Dumber," came nowhere near this edition. And it shows — painfully so. There is a knack to crafting both stupid and grotesque comedy smartly, and this movie's creative team doesn't have it. As the film's title indicates, this movie takes place prior to the original. Working with a plot about how the pals met, Eric Christian Olsen and Derek Richardson are uncannily convincing as the youthful versions of, respectively, Jim Carrey's Lloyd Christmas and Jeff Daniels' Harry Dunne. It really is a shame that such hard-working, talented young actors weren't afforded the inspired humor they deserved to riff on. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: language, mild violence.) 1 hour, 22 minutes. D+

"THE EVE": This artful, unsettling ghost story uses simple and precise

techniques to scare you before you even understand what there is to be afraid of. Blind since childhood, Mun (Lee Sin-Je) undergoes a cornea transplant and ends up not only with two new eyes, but also with second sight. To borrow the tag line from another movie, she sees dead people. And like the spectators seen in "The Sixth Sense," they seem less interested in harming her than in soliciting some kind of posthumous therapy. What is most impressive about "The Eye" is its delicacy. Lee looks convincingly haunted by what she sees, and Thai-born directors Oxide and Danny Pang's pictorial instinct is as sure as their shock-producing sense of timing. — A.O. Scott. (NR: Cantonese/Mandarin/Thai with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. A-

"FINDING NEMO": Another delight of the imagination from Pixar, set under the sea, in the realm of fish who talk real estate, sharks who try to be better dentists of the deep, and lobster named Mike. Nemo, a small clown fish, is plucked from the ocean and dropped into a fish tank in a dentist's office in Sydney. His timid father Marlin travels many leagues to find him, accompanied by a dopey but very funny tang fish (voiced by Ellen DeGeneres). The ideal blend of sentiment and sparkling humor, perfect for kids, charming for parents, and so good it's likely to appeal to a few souls who are neither. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 41 minutes. A

"GHOSTS OF THE ABYSS": Fans of the all-time moneymaking film "Titanic" will cherish James Cameron's new IMAX feature documentary, which explores the remains of the ship with great intimacy. Those who found "Titanic" too sentimental will discover much to admire in the new film. Intricate details of the ship are revealed without pedantry, and the 3-D cameras bring all those details to remarkable life. — P. Wuntch. (G) 1 hour. B+

"HOLES": You walk out of "Holes" wondering why more kids movies aren't like this — exciting, refreshingly clever and completely heartfelt without a trace of condescension. Filmmaking that confronts serious contemporary social themes, yet has a gentle, old-fashioned magic. Based on Louis Sachar's Newbery Medal-winning novel "Holes," about a boy, Stanley (the winning Shia LaBeouf), who lands at a Texas work camp, thanks to a curse on his family, and gradually unravels the mystery of why the warden (Sigourney Weaver) makes the inmates dig a 5-foot-deep hole every day. Sachar wrote the screenplay, his first ever. You'd never know it. Or maybe you would, because it has an unpredictability that is sadly rare these

days. — M. Pols. (PG: violence, language and some thematic elements.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. A

"HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE": I'd rather, conflicted disappointment, writer/director Ron Shelton, who made the still-charming comedy "Bull Durham" and the intelligent police corruption drama "Dark Blue." This comedy, starring older actor of rison Ford and younger cutie W. Hartnett as mismatched partners takes stabs at being both those, but the combination doesn't work. Ford is game, Hartnett exudes class and Lena Olin tries to bring a San-Andron-style energy to the part as a radio psychic. But the characters feel slapped together, plot is a bore and the comedy is derisive. — W. Hartnett. (PG: violence, language.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. C

"IDENTITY": In this slick new thriller, unpleasant people meet pleasant ones at a remote motel. Shrewish actress (Rebecca De Mornay) and her do-gooder charmer (John Cusack) are involved in a show up, the hooker, played by Amanda Peet, the unhappy new weds (Clea DuVall and William Scott) and the cop and his partner (Ray Liotta and Jake Gyllenhaal). Everybody has a secret. Everybody is a suspect. As the bodies pile up, the parallel stories collide and conflicting versions of reality emerge of intelligence to a genre that has been seen in many a year. — R. Moore. (R: violence, gore, language.) 1 hour, 36 minutes. B

"THE IN-LAWS": This remake of 1979 comedy is quite enjoyable, coasting as it does on the perfect chemistry between stars Mike Douglas and Albert Brooks. Douglas plays Steve Tobias, a rogue agent whose job wrecks havoc on the impending marriage of his son. When Steve finally gets around to meeting the prospective bride's parents, he's in the middle of a crisis. Juggling obligation and Steve manages to rope in the parents of the bride, a funny-pack-wedding podiatrist (Albert Brooks) who's neurotic that he'll have an awkward take merely from watching an on-camera commercial. "The In-Laws" flirts with the home stretch — and even the filmmakers make the eternal stab at fleshing out the relationship between the bride and groom. — G. Whipp. (PG-13: suggestive humor, language, some drug references, action violence.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B

See REVIEWS, Page 6

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday July 4

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2
2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-548-7249
●Capturing the Friedmans (NR) 1, 4, 7, 9, 45
●Legend of Suriyothai (R) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Albany Twin
1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-524-9588
●Together (PG) 1:30, 4, 6:30, 9
●Winged Migration (G) 2:15, 4:30, 7, 9:15

AMC Bay Street 16
5814 Shellmound St., Emeryville 510-457-4262
●Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 3:10, 8:10
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 12:35, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 9:55
●Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30
●Finding Nemo (G) 12:15, 1, 1:45, 2, 45, 3:35, 4:50, 5:20, 6, 8, 9:45, 10:25
●Hollywood Homicide (PG-13) 12:35, 5:30, 10:30
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:20, 1:05, 1:50, 3:25, 4:15, 4:50, 6:30, 7:15, 7:50, 9:45, 10:25
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 12:10, 1:10, 2:50, 3:50, 5:50, 6:20, 7:55, 9, 10:35
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 12, 1, 2:30, 3:40, 5:10, 6:05, 7, 7:45, 9:30, 9:30, 10:15
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 7:10, 10:05
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12:20, 1:15, 2:45, 3:30, 4:20, 5, 5:45, 6:30, 8:15, 9, 10:25

California Theatre
2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-849-0249
●Hollywood Homicide (PG-13) 9:35
●L'Auberge Espagnole (R) 1:45, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
●A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 2, 5, 7, 20
●Whale Rider (PG-13) 2:15, 4:40, 7, 9:25

Chabot Space & Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
●The Human Body (Not Rated) 12:30
●Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West (Not Rated) 11:30, 2:30, 4:30
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 1:30
●To Fly! (Not Rated) 10:30, 3:30

Elmwood 3
2996 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 1:45, 6:45
●The Dancer Upstairs (R) 2:15, 9
●Marooned in Iraq (Not Rated) 12:15, 5, 7
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 4, 9
●Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time (Not Rated) 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:15, 9:15

Renaissance Grand Lake Theatre
3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:35, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12, 3:30, 6:45, 9:30
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 11:45, 1:45, 4, 6, 8, 10
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:45

Signature Jack London Stadium
100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
●28 Days Later (R) 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:40
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10, 11:10
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:30, 2, 4:50, 7:20, 9, 45
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:45, 3:50, 7:10, 10:15
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 11, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:45, 12:30, 2:10, 3, 5, 5:30, 7:30, 9:50
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 10, 12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7, 9:05
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 8, 10, 10:45

Renaissance Oaks Theatre
1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-526-1636
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 9:15
●Down with Love (PG-13) 7:15
●Holes (PG) 12, 2:15, 4:30
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7, 9

Parkway Theater
1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
●Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 7
●Hollywood Homicide (PG-13) 9:45
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 6:15, 9:30

Piedmont Theatre
4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-654-2758
●Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
●Whale Rider (PG-13) 2:20, 4:40, 7, 9:30
●Winged Migration (G) 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20

Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2992
●Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 1:30, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20
●The Eye (Not Rated) 9:50
●Finding Nemo (G) 1:15, 4, 7:05, 9:30
●The Hard Word (R) 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45
●The Heart of Me (R) 4:25, 6:55, 9:05
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:25
●The Man On The Train (R) 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7:25, 9:40
●Nowhere in Africa (R) 12:40, 3:40, 6:40
●Raising Victor Vargas (R) 12:20, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:15
●Respiro (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:35
●Rugrats Go Wild (PG) 12:35, 2:30
●Spellbound (G) 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10

United Artists Berkeley 7
2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-0193
●28 Days Later (R) 11:15, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 10
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11, 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:50, 7:15, 8, 9:50, 10:30
●The Hulk (PG-13) 1, 4, 7:50, 10:55
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10:10
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 10:45, 11:45, 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 7, 7:30, 9:45, 10:15

United Artists Emery Bay Stadium 10
6330 Christie Ave., Emeryville 510-420-0492
●28 Days Later (R) 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:20, 8:10, 9:50, 10:45
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11:40, 12:20, 1, 2:20, 3, 3:40, 5, 5:40, 6:20, 7, 7:40, 8:20, 9, 9:40, 10:20, 11
●Rugrats Go Wild (PG) 11:30, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:30, 12, 12:40, 1:20, 2, 2:40, 3:20, 4, 4:40, 5:20, 5:55, 6:40, 7:20, 8, 8:40, 9:20, 10, 10:40, 11:20
●Winged Migration (G) 12:10, 2:50, 4:45

Central Contra Costa
Renaissance Orinda Theatre
4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:30, 12, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 12, 2:10, 4, 6, 8, 9:45
Renaissance Park Theatre
350 Park St., Moraga 925-888-3411
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 12:10, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:30, 4, 6:45, 9:25
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 11:55, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:45, 2, 4:20, 7, 9:20

West Contra Costa
Century 16 Hilltop
3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
●Fast 2 Furious (PG-13) 8, 10:25
●28 Days Later (R) 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 1:05, 1:55, 2:50, 3:40, 4:25, 5:20, 6:15, 7, 7:55, 9:35, 10:30
●Finding Nemo (G) 11:30, 12:25, 2, 2:50, 4:30, 7, 9:30
●The Hulk (PG-13) 1, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20
●Italian Job (PG-13) 11:45, 2:20, 5, 7:35, 10:15
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:55, 12:55, 2:15, 3:15, 4:35, 5:40, 7, 7:30, 8, 9:25, 10, 10:25
●Rugrats Go Wild (PG) 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 6
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 11:30, 12:35, 1:40, 2:45, 3:50, 4:55, 6, 8, 10, 10:20
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:50, 12:40, 1:10, 2:30, 3:20, 3:50, 5:10, 5:35, 6, 6:30, 7:50, 8:15, 8:40, 9:10, 10, 10:30

San Francisco
AMC Van Ness 14
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
●28 Days Later (R) 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20
●Bruce Almighty (PG-13) 2:05, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 12:10, 1:10, 2:50, 5, 5:30, 7:40, 8:10, 10:20, 10:55
●Finding Nemo (G) 1:10, 1:40, 4:25, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50
●The Hulk (PG-13) 11:45, 12:30, 3, 3:45, 6:15, 7, 9:30, 10:15
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:35
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 12:50, 4:10, 7:20, 10:40

United Artists Galaxy 4
1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-474-8790
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45
●Chicago (PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30
●On Line (Not Rated) 1:45, 4, 7, 9:40
●Together (Not Rated) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30

AMC Kabuki 8
1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-931-9800
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 1:25, 4:35, 7:20, 9:45
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 1:45, 5:05, 8, 10:35
●Finding Nemo (G) 1:05, 4:10, 7, 9:35
●The Hulk (PG-13) 12:50, 4, 7:10, 10:10
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 1:35, 4:45, 7:50, 10:30
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 11:50, 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 5:50, 7:40, 8:20, 10:50, 11:20
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 7:25, 10:30
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 1:30, 4, 7:45, 10:10
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5, 7, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30

Bridge Theatre
3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-751-3213
●Whale Rider (PG-13) 1:50, 4:20, 7, 9:30

Castro Theatre
429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
●The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (R) 8

Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore Street, San Francisco 415-348-1124
●Swimming Pool (R) 11:15, 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:40

Embarcadero Center Cinemas
1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0835
●Capturing the Friedmans (Not Rated) 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50
●L'Auberge Espagnole (R) 1, 4, 7, 9:45
●The Legend of Suriyothai (R) 12, 3, 6:15, 9:20
●Spellbound (G) 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:40
●Winged Migration (G) 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30

Lumiere Theatre
1572 California St., San Francisco 415-885-3201
●Bend It Like Beckham (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9, 130
●Jet Lag (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
●A Mighty Wind (PG-13) 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10, 12:30

Opera Plaza Cinema
601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-771-0183
●The Eye (Not Rated) 4:15, 9:20
●The Hard Word (R) 1:30, 4, 7:15, 9:40
●The Heart of Me (R) 1:45, 6:50
●The Man On The Train (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:30, 9:50
●Respiro (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30

The Red Vic Theatre
1272 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3994
●Theatre Closed for the Holiday

The Roxie Theatre
3117 16th St., San Francisco 415-863-1081
●Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time (Not Rated) 7, 9

Loews Theatres Metreon
101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6201
●28 Days Later (R) 12:10, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30, 12:30
●Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle (PG-13) 11, 1:10, 2, 4, 5, 7:10, 8, 9:10, 10, 11, 12
●Finding Nemo (G) 12:30, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20, 12:20
●The Hulk (PG-13) 10:35, 12, 2:20, 3:20, 5:30, 6:50, 10:10
●The Italian Job (PG-13) 11:10, 2:10, 4:50, 7:50, 10:30
●Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde (PG-13) 10:40, 11:40, 1:40, 2:50, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30, 8:30, 10:20, 11:30
●The Matrix Reloaded (R) 10:30, 11:10
●Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) 10:50, 11:50, 1:30, 2:30, 4:20, 5:20, 7, 9:40
●Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (R) 11:30, 12:20, 1, 1:50, 2:40, 3:30, 4:30, 5:10, 5:50, 6:40, 7:40, 8:10, 8:40, 9, 9:50, 10:50, 11:20, 12:10

Loews IMAX Theatre
101 Fourth Street, San Francisco 415-369-6201
●Ghosts of the Abyss (G) 10:30
●Matrix (IMAX) Reloaded (R) 12:50, 4:10, 7:20, 10:40

United Artists Galaxy 4
1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-474-8790
●Alex & Emma (PG-13) 2, 4:30, 7:30, 9:45
●Chicago (PG-13) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30
●On Line (Not Rated) 1:45, 4, 7, 9:40
●Together (Not Rated) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30



Violent 'T3' is a buzz machine — 'Sinbad' is more of a snore

By Roger Moore
ORLANDO SENTINEL

"TERMINATOR 3: RISE OF THE MACHINES"
Rating: R for strong sci-fi violence and action, language and ef nudity.

What it's about: "I'm back ... ain!" The killing machine-people from the future return to the present to wreak havoc and try kill the young humans who grow up to defeat the machines in the big war to come. The Kid Attractor Factor: Violence, car chases, gore, special effects galore. Kids will be sneaking into this in droves.

Good lessons/bad lessons: You keep track of who you meet out with in a friend's basement when you're a teenager.

WITH FAMILIES
IN MIND

They may turn out to be the mother/father of humankind.

Violence: None ... Just kidding! Pretty much nonstop, and gory.

Language: Profanity occurs. Sex: A strip bar is visited, Arnie is nude ... again.

Drugs: Prescription stuff.

Parents advisory: If they've seen "T2" on tape or cable, they're old enough for this.

■■■■■

"SINBAD: LEGEND OF THE SEVEN SEAS"

Rating: PG for adventure action, some mild sensuality and

brief language.

What it's about: The "Arabian Nights" pirate is rendered into a cartoon, voiced by Brad Pitt, in this time-killer from DreamWorks. Sinbad is framed for the theft of a book that guarantees peace, and he has to clear his name.

The Kid Attractor Factor: Well, it is a cartoon, even though children can get their fill of mediocre animation on TV.

Good lessons/bad lessons: Even pirates want to protect their reputation, and never chase after your best friend's girl, even if she's voiced by Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Violence: Mild cartoon violence.

Language: Clean. Sex: Hot drawings, but not too hot.

Drugs: None.

Parents advisory: The tykes will be bored, but you'll want to open a vein.

Family Reunion And Supper-ganza" — will be held Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley.

The evening will include live cabaret music, a home-cooked (by Shotgun Players) supper and the silent auction with a range of goodies equaling the Players range of dramatic productions. Such as: dinner at Chez Panisse, a vacation at a Caribbean mansion (I'm taking their word for the digs), breakfast at Rick & Ann's, rock-climbing lessons, 24 Hour Fitness membership, art and jewelry, tickets to the opera, a "Berkeley collectives package and much, much more."

Tickets are \$11 to \$111 — pay whatever you can between those numbers. RSVP to 510-704-8210.

Send theater items of interest to Jack Tucker c/o the West County Times, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806; e-mail to jtucker@ccetimes.com; fax to 510-262-2776, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

Steiner

FROM PAGE C3

"I can't keep all the paintings, because she's so prolific," says Eva. "I'm really blown away — she's an amazing talent, and she's lucky that she finally discovered that."

Another child, Grete's son Mark, has also inspired the painter. Mark suffers from Parkinson's disease, and Grete plans to donate the proceeds from her paintings to organizations seeking a cure.

Now that she's produced hundreds of watercolors, Grete is considering acrylics and perhaps even oil paints.

The renewed thrill of creation keeps her painting. She speaks excitedly of a landscape she just completed, and when asked about a personal favorite, she glowingly says, "It's always the last one!"

Does she have any plans to teach painting herself? Again,

MOVIE PICKS

Reviews from around the nation

	Contra Costa Times	Dallas Morning News	Detroit Free Press	Miami Herald	N.Y. Daily News	Philadelphia Inquirer	Seattle Times
"Alex & Emma" (PG-13)	▼	●	●	●	▼	●	●
"Bruce Almighty" (PG-13)	▼	▼	■	●	■	■	▼
"Charlie's Angels" (PG-13)	▼	▼	■	■	■	■	■
"Finding Nemo" (G)	★	★	■	★	★	■	★
"Hollywood Homicide" (PG-13)	▼	▼	●	●	●	▼	●
"The Hulk" (PG-13)	■	▼	▼	▼	▼	★	▼
"28 Days Later" (R)	■	■	■	■	★	■	■
"2 Fast 2 Furious" (PG-13)	▼	▼	●	▼	●	▼	▼

★ Brilliant

■ Good

▼ Weak

● Bomb

Grete laughs and shakes her head. "Oh no, there are certain things you just can't teach," she said. "It has to be in you."

She claims to have a "teeny, tiny little bit" of the requisite artistic temperament.

Interview concluded, she turns the table on the reporter.

"Have you ever interviewed someone as old as me?" she asks.

No, I have to admit, nor as inspirational.

Reach Berkeley freelance writer Brian Kluepfel at bkluepfel@hotmail.com.

Theater

FROM PAGE C3

Orinda Starlight Village Playhouse joins the crowd with "On Golden Pond," Ernest Thompson's funny and warmly perceived comedy about a spirited and aging elderly couple facing their eighth years. It was in the news today in connection with the tharine Hepburn obituary.

And her co-star, Henry Dinkels, along with Thompson, all in Academy Awards for the 81 film version.

Plays in the outdoor theater, Orinda Way, at 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 9, with extra performances 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 3, and 4 p.m. on Aug. 7. Tickets are \$4 general, \$7 for seniors and \$10 for students. Call 925-253-1191.

"REBECCA" TAKES A KEY: Act Now! of Benicia also sees its production of Daphne Maurier's mystery thriller, "Rebecca," to the Dean Lesher Memorial Center for the Arts, 111 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Brooding and moody Maximilian Winter brings home his bride less than a year af-

ter the tragic death of his first wife, Rebecca.

The staff of Manderley, his country home, is still devoted to their former mistress, the socialite Rebecca, and they find it difficult to accept the new, shy Mrs. de Winter who is inexperienced running a large home. In addition, Rebecca's tragic boating accident, that took her life, seems to haunt Manderley and its inhabitants. Was there truly an accident? Is Rebecca really dead? Were Maxim and Rebecca blissfully happy? Du Maurier holds the audience in suspense until the last moment.

Directed by Irv Siegel, "Rebecca" plays at 8:15 Fridays and Saturdays, 2:15 Sundays, through Aug. 2. Tickets are \$25; discounts for seniors, students and TBA members. Call 925-943-7469.

INITIALLY SPEAKING: Sasaltras, a small tree of the laurel family, native to the eastern part of North America, has a sassy ring to its name that — who else? — Shotgun Players has chosen for an annual benefit. This year, S.A.S.A.F.R.A.S. — "Shotgun's 2nd Annual Spendalicious Silent Auction

Family Reunion And Supper-ganza" — will be held Monday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley.

The evening will include live cabaret music, a home-cooked (by Shotgun Players) supper and the silent auction with a range of goodies equaling the Players range of dramatic productions. Such as: dinner at Chez Panisse, a vacation at a Caribbean mansion (I'm taking their word for the digs), breakfast at Rick & Ann's, rock-climbing lessons, 24 Hour Fitness membership, art and jewelry, tickets to the opera, a "Berkeley collectives package and much, much more."

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Konociti

FROM PAGE C3

Kenny Chesney/Deana Carter/Keith Urban show. "You've got the lake, the cool breeze, and you can go inside or outside. There's a really good feeling here. People come here from Los Angeles and San Diego."

And, as Bongiovanni notes, Konociti's concerts can be a good hook for the resort, instead of the other way around.

"It's smart marketing," he said. "The fact that there's a B.B. King or a Boston to bring in people will make people want to come back."

Those who stay the night will often find a lively scene. As with many busy Saturday nights, the party went strong into the night after the Chesney/Urban/Carter show. The crowd shifted to the large bar, dance and patio area in the main building until the wee hours, with a cover band play-

ing to a packed dance floor in the showroom.

For daytime recreation, Konociti, which includes a full-service spa and gym, watercraft rentals, multiple pools, a miniature golf course, tennis, a fishing pier and organized activities for kids. There's also a former Hard Rock Cafe that's now known as the Classic Rock Cafe. Tons of memorabilia hang from the walls, much of it straight from resort performers.

The apartment-style accommodations vary, depending on need and price. It resembles the old style summer destination resorts where a family could stay a few weeks at a time.

Easy-going attitude

The amphitheater isn't exactly high-tech, featuring bathrooms in trailers and metal bleachers. But the scenery is good, and the amphitheater is ringed by more concessions than your average venue. There also seems to be a relaxed atmosphere at Konociti, where security is as tolerant and friendly

— even those guarding the stage — as any in the business. Despite signs out front forbidding cameras, people were repeatedly allowed to bring children up to the stage during the show for snapshots.

In one case Saturday, a security guard actually walked down an aisle and plucked a child and her parent out of their seats, walking them up to the front for a few minutes' worth of a premium view. The relaxed feeling seemed to spark Carter, Urban and Chesney, all of whom practically posed for pictures and interacted with fans during their sets. It's a pretty rare occurrence.

"It's the way we like to do things," Bennett said, mildly acknowledging that rules get bent. "Of course it depends on the artist. It's one of those down-to-earth places where the artists feel down to earth."

Tony Hicks is the Times pop music critic. Reach him at 925-952-2678 or thicks@ccetimes.com.

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

"THE ITALIAN JOB": A life of crime ain't a Mini Cooper is somewhat practical, but by the end of this y, funny action flick, you will probably want to indulge in both. k Wahlberg plays the head of a up of very lovable thieves, including Jason Statham, a winning Def and hilarious Seth Green computer geek. We get two for the price of one. During first, a nifty boat chase through Los, our boys are double-teamed by a colleague (Edward Norton) who makes off with all the. A year later, the team is ready to hit back. Charize Theron plays a master safecracker with peral reasons for getting involved. P. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some language.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. **B+**

"LAUBERGE ESPAGNOLE": The nrd have a history of making vies about post-adolescents who looking for the meaning of life, this one is worth investigating. Ihero is Xavier (Romain Duris), a ed-up Parisian who leaves his dy girlfriend (Audrey Tautou) to Barcelona for a year of gradu-study. His education begins in next when he lands at a cramped omentary by six other college dents, each from a different Euro-n country. To loosely translate title, it's a Euro pudding, a locale n which Xavier comes to realize he get out of it exactly what you ly." The film captures the magic hat unfettered time with a mixture humor and wistfulness, making it easure to watch for anyone look-back or forward to the experi-e of leaving home for the first t. — G. Whipp. (R: French/Span-english/Catalan/ with English subtitles; lan-ge, sexual content.) 1 hour, 56 utes. **B**

"ON THE TRAIN": Two ay-featured Frenchmen, one y country house with a leaking y and the prospect of both men ing lives with each other. These ents would turn a Hollywood lo executive's hair white if you e trying to pitch him the story. In Patrice Leconte's "Man on the n," they add up to a thoroughly ing character drama. Johnny day plays Milan, the man of the who steps off a train and enters y French village. What does ent? A retired schoolteacher ed Manesquieu (Jean Rochefort) out to find out. You can't get igh of these two guys playing ch other. They are the words music, the heart and soul of the e. And even at the end, when e become increasingly hokey ontrived, there's something ut the spiritual link between men that transcends every- — D. Howe. (R: French with

English subtitles; language and some violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. **B+**

"MAROONED IN IRAQ": Although this film seems to reference the Baghdad regime's genocidal air and chemical assaults against the Kurdish minority following the 1980s Iran-Iraq War, Kurdish filmmaker Bahman Ghobadi insists that the action takes place following the first Gulf War. Employing mostly amateur actors, the film follows the cockeyed but increasingly symbolic and moving quest of an elderly local singing star, Mirza (Shahab Ebrahimi), and his two adult musician sons. With Saddam's murderers running riot on the other side of the border, thousands of refugees are fleeing east. Along the way, the three men encounter ineffectual authorities, black marketeers, romantic brigands, bandits, hordes of war orphans and a few dedicated caretakers. As the terrain grows less hospitable, the contentious musicians lose just about everything and for each, that presents a possibility for enlightened redemption that just may snatch personal redemption from the jaws of harrowing atrocity. — B. Strauss. (NR: Kurdish with English subtitles.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **A**

"THE MATRIX RELOADED": A muddled marathon of special effects that leaves you overstimulated and underwhelmed. This time around, there are more Agent Smiths (many more), more sunglasses, a tour of the last safe haven for man and even some unplugged sex. Along with that comes a TV-style cliffhanger and enough confusion to fuel furious debate in chat rooms until November, when "The Matrix Revolutions," the final installment of the Wachowski brothers' trilogy, will be released. The movie takes itself too seriously, the allegedly deep philosophical meaning feels cobbled together from a freshman seminar, and in the end, this sequel isn't nearly as engaging or innovative as its predecessor. — M. Pols. (R: sci-fi violence and some sexuality.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. **C+**

"A MIGHTY WIND": It's unlikely that Christopher Guest will ever make a truly bad or boring movie, but with his latest, "A Mighty Wind," the bloom falls a tad off the rose of his unique mockumentary style. "Waiting for Guffman" and "Best in Show" made us snort with laughter. This one, a parody of earnest and talent-less folk singers from the early 1960s meeting for a reunion show, is funny, but not quite up to snuff. It's formulaic and lacks spontaneity. Also, since when was all folk music so awful? Even in "Spinal Tap," those who disliked heavy metal could get a charge out of the music. But here we get one tedious, insipid song after another. Guest hardly owes us a historical recounting of the folk era, but since he's usually so razor-sharp and inclusive, one

wonders what about talents like Joan Baez, Woody Guthrie or Bob Dylan? — M. Pols. (PG-13: sex-related humor.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **C+**

"NOWHERE IN AFRICA": This Oscar-winning German film is a Holocaust survival story. Based on journalist Stefanie Zweig's memoir, this is one of the better filmed examinations of Europeans in British colonial Kenya. The suffering is, in a historical sense, negligible. Yet the personal impact of the calamity is evoked with a jarring completeness. Three very lucky people get out of Nazi Germany in 1938, several months before things go irreversibly bad for Jews. This movie finds deep psychological insights where most just go hunting for big game. — B. Strauss. (NR: German with English subtitles; sex, nudity, language and racist language and actions.) 2 hours, 18 minutes. **A-**

"OWNING MAHOWNY": Dan Mahowny (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a hard-working Toronto assistant bank manager, lives in a barren apartment and drives a junker car. His trusting girlfriend (Minnie Driver) thinks he's a workaholic, which he is. He's also a compulsive gambler. Eventually, this leads to his skimming money from the bank. Watching the activity from behind the security cameras is Victor Foss (John Hurt), a sharklike casino manager who wants to use Mahowny's cash-flow potential as a link to Las Vegas. Mahowny's no victim, but the institutions he's working — the bank and the casino — aren't brimming over with the milk of human kindness, either. The film is part suspense — when's he going to get caught? — and part personality study. — E. Henerson. (R: language, brief nudity.) 1 hour, 47 minutes. **B-**

"RAISING VICTOR VARGAS": Director Peter Sollett's movie about teenagers on the Lower East Side is a sweet, young delight, potent not just with sassy lust, but with young love. Victor Vargas (Victor Rasuk) goes after Juicy Judy (Judy Marte) the hottest girl in the neighborhood, hoping to prove his manhood. Meanwhile, his best friend courts Judy's best friend, and Judy's younger brother courts Victor's bratty younger sister. The movie flows from the timeline of these romances, but it's just as much about Victor and his siblings' relationship with their grandmother, who is raising them alone. Tender, evocative and blissfully free of the typical Latino gangster stereotypes most movies shove in our faces. — M. Pols. (R: strong language.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. **A-**

"RESPIRO": This fable brought to cinematic life was shot entirely on the Sicilian island of Lampedusa, amid decaying buildings and along those remarkable cliffs and caves. Valeria Golino stars as Grazia, a

beautiful, life-embracing mother of three. She is also temperamentally unpredictable and under medication. Her fisherman husband, Pietro, tries to be patient, but gossip is building, and professional help is available in Milan. Of course, you'd need a team of wranglers to pry Grazia off her island. Ultimately, Pietro and the townspeople are forced to take action. This prompts Grazia's son Pasquale to execute a fairly daring maneuver of his own. — E. Henerson. (PG-13: Italian with English subtitles; nudity, mild violence, language.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. **B**

"RUGRATS GO WILD": In this latest animated adventure, the Rugrats get marooned on a desert island, which just happens to be where the Thornberrys, a family of nature adventurers, are seeking a clouded leopard for their latest documentary. As one coincidence begets another, the Rugrats' fearful Chuckie gets mistaken for the Thornberrys' wild-child, Donnie. A knock on the head makes Nigel Thornberry think he's one of the Rugrats. And the Rugrats' bossy Angelica finds a new role model in the Thornberrys' bossy Debbie. Ultimately — surprise — they are redeemed. It's a far cry from the Rugrats' earlier, more touching films, but younger children should enjoy it. — N. Churnin. (PG: mild, crude humor.) 1 hour, 20 minutes. **C**

"SPELLBOUND": This Academy Award-nominated documentary is ostensibly about the National Spelling Bee, told through the stories of eight kids who made it to the 1999 finals. But that makes it sound so dry, and this is such a passionate and engaging movie. You fall hard for eight very distinct and somewhat peculiar children, and at the same time, are movingly reminded of all the best things about the melting pot and the American dream. Sharp, clever editing enhances the natural tension of the bee, and filmmakers Jeff Blitz and Sean Welch know how to use irony while remaining good-hearted and true to their subjects. — M. Pols. (G) 1 hour, 37 minutes. **A**

"TOGETHER": The 13-year-old Xiaochun (real-life violin virtuoso Tang Yun) is a natural talent and the pride of his remote village. But once his father (Liu Peig) takes him to Beijing for a contest, the boy gradually loses his bearings and the will to compete. Coaching and tugging from the sidelines are his deceptively backward father, a high-class call girl named Lili (Chen Hong) and a pair of music teachers with very different agendas. As it becomes increasingly clear that each adult has some design on the boy, Xiaochun himself becomes more callow. — G. Lovell. (PG: Mandarin with English subtitles; some adult material.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. **B+**

"2 FAST 2 FURIOUS": Whereas the original in this street racing franchise seemed to be aiming to evoke the rebellious, romantic spirit of "West Side Story," this sequel aims for "Miami Vice" and "Starsky & Hutch." It's deliberately cheesy. Or so one hopes. The action has moved to Florida, where Brian (Paul Walker) gets roped into trying to trap an oily crime boss (Cole Hauser). Only a fast car can crack this case? Gimme a break. There's plenty of adrenaline, but the plot is shot through with more holes than Christina Aguilera's favorite awards outfit. Tyrese, stepping into Vin Diesel's shoes, nearly saves the day by being funny and gorgeous. Love interest Eva Mendes models her way through the part. At the dramatic climax, she keeps her hands wedged into her pockets. Why? Her outfit looks better that way. Directed by John Singleton, working below his standard. — M. Pols. (PG-13: street racing, violence, language and some sensuality.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. **C+**

"WINGED MIGRATION": Jacques Perrin's breathtaking documentary of migrating birds transports you to an exalted realm, where nature operates under its own inviolable laws. For much of the movie, filmed over three years using five crews — including 17 pilots and 14 cinematographers — the camera flies alongside, above and below many species of birds as they make their annual round trips. It may sound facetious, but "Winged Migration" provides such an intense vicarious experience of being a flapping air-

borne creature that you leave the theater feeling like an honorary member of another species. — S. Holden. (G) 1 hour, 39 minutes. **A**

"WRONG TURN": Superhuman, cannibalistic, Appalachian, mutant mountain men are the bad guys in this movie, where it's not the sun making necks red; it's blood. Specifically, the blood of six attractive twentysomethings who stumble into cannibal territory, where they meet the mutants, all of whom have craniofacial issues that would make them excellent "Extreme Makeover" candidates. "Wrong Turn" doesn't come up with anything new, but at least it does a few things well. There's a dandy car crash, a couple of clever camera moves and at least three genuinely startling moments. — C. Hewitt. (R: gory violence, strong language.) 1 hour, 21 minutes. **C-**

"X2: X-MEN UNITED": The cast has expanded to include a few new characters, and the premise — that all the mutants, even evil Magneto (Ian McKellen), need to band together to defend the mutant race — is better than the first movie's. Director Bryan Singer ("The Usual Suspects") lets things go on 20 minutes too long, and Halle Berry, fresh off her Oscar win, gets more play than her humorless performance merits. Still, this sequel is the best kind of action flick around: playful, lively, witty, capable of a surprise or two and emotionally satisfying. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sci-fi action violence, some sexuality and brief language.) 2 hours, 14 minutes. **B**

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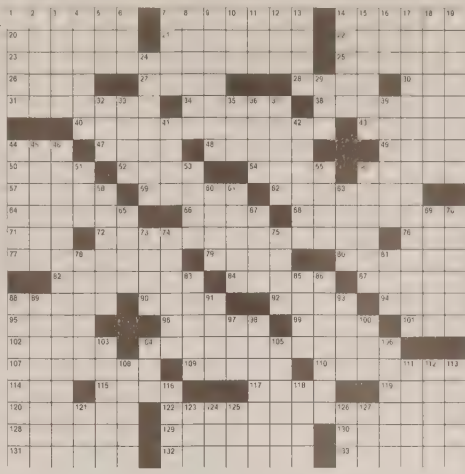
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57 Average raiser
59 Con game
62 Attacks
64 1984 Cyndi Lauper hit
66 "Quo Vadis" character
68 Elaborate hanging
71 Son of a son
72 Religious groups traveling together?
76 Stodge name
77 Approve
79 Going back in time?
80 Job woo
82 TV series with the theme "I'll Be There for You"
84 Checkup request
87 Em and Bee
88 Loose rock debris
90 Per ____
92 Marked, as a paper ballot
94 Vichy verb
95 Sport ____ (Ford Explorer model)
96 Focus again
99 Place to do one's bidding
101 Blue
102 Nouveau ____
104 Folded-up salary check?
107 Sweets
109 Saw

110 Certain school fundraiser
114 "Agnes" ____
115 "The Mod Squad" role
117 Fountain request?
119 Circular attack
120 "Enough!"
122 Not quitting a building supplies specialty?
128 Kind of derivation
129 Musical derived from "Berlin Stories"
130 Blues great Smith
131 Calif. barrio locale
132 They don't get any reception
133 City ENE of Atlanta

DOWN
1 Capital on the Gulf of Guinea
2 Nostrials
3 Permanently
4 Excessive adulation of a parent
5 News org.
6 Part of a definition, maybe: Abbr.
7 Fit
8 Marital art
9 Trees with heart-shaped leaves
10 PC key
11 Old World deer

12 Report source
13 Sundance's gal
14 Follow, as advice
15 Kind of enemy
16 Bard's preposition
17 Secret agent disguised as a clergyman?
18 At risk
19 Register site
24 Dry gulches
29 Sue Grafton's "for Lawless"
32 Rage
33 Sierra Madres resort
35 Serious hang-ups?
36 MGM studios founder
37 Capital on the Willamette
39 Creates
41 Slaughter
42 Senate event
44 Balance
45 Hagia ____ (Istanbul landmark)
46 "In order to divide, invert the divisor and multiply," e.g.?



61 Boiled breakfast dish
63 Studios, maybe: Abbr.
65 Ballet bend
67 Fit to serve
69 Pulpits
70 Agreed with
73 "____ Cassius has a lean ____": Shak.
74 Jawaharlal's daughter
75 Stream of mythology
78 Stable scene
81 French way
83 "Later!"
85 Chick's tail?
86 Griller
88 Not pick sides?
89 Points to consider
91 Domestic
93 Apollo's creator
97 Actress Claire
98 Record breaker of 1998
100 "____ dum tootin'!"
103 Observation
104 Ore: setting
105 Conductor Fritz
106 Nike logo
108 Tank brightener
111 Popped up
112 Small finch
113 Scams, so to speak
116 Suffix with opal
118 Some drillers
121 Treat like a dog?
123 1960-61 world chess champion
124 Blood letters
125 Big wealth
126 Magic grp.
127 Evidence gatherer
Abbr.

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ENTS

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aturday and Sunday, 5:30 p.m.
Hinkel Park, Southampton Av.
and Somerset Place, Berkeley.
525-1620 or
aobberkeley.org

THEATRE COMPANY —
ese Raquin," by Emil Zola,
gh July 27. Zola's adaptation of
ovel set in the 19th century, in
a young married woman con-
s with her lover, a man from her
to murder her husband. This sin-
plot sets a chain of events into
in that leads to a nightmarish
union.

\$32 to \$38. Wednesday through Satur-
day, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m., and 7
p.m. 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-
843-4822 or www.auroratheatre.com
BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE —
"The Guys" by Anne Nelson, closing
July 5. The 9/11-inspired drama finds
Nick, a New York City fire captain, sil-
enced by grief over the loss of his
colleagues and friends. When he is
asked to write eulogies for his "guys,"
he discovers he cannot do it. He
meets Joan, an editor who will help
him, and in turn they both learn to
deal with their grief. The two-person
show has rotating actors in it. Tues-
day, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 8
p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2
p.m. and 7 p.m.; July 5, 2 p.m.; NO
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CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THE-
ATRE — "Arms and the Man" by
George Bernard Shaw, July 5 through
July 27. Shaw's most popular play is
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angles, ambitious patriotism, and mis-
taken identity.
"Shake it Out," July 11, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
A chance for gay and lesbian theater-
goers to meet and mingle with com-
pany members. A performance of
"Arms and the Man," will follow. \$37 to
\$43
\$25 to \$49 general; \$24 to \$49 seniors;

\$13 to \$49 youth ages 4 to 16. Tues-
day through Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Fri-
day, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8
p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. Bruns Memorial
Amphitheater, Highway 24, Shake-
speare Festival Way/Gateway Exit,
Orinda. Free shuttle from the Orinda

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CENTRAL WORKS THEATER ENSEM-
BLE — "The Wyrd Sisters" by Gary

See EVENTS, Page C8

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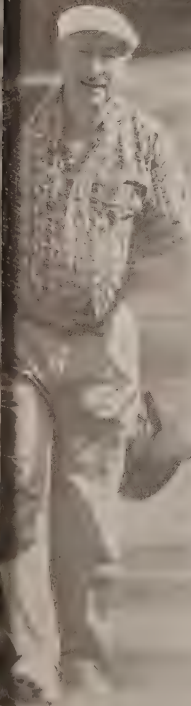


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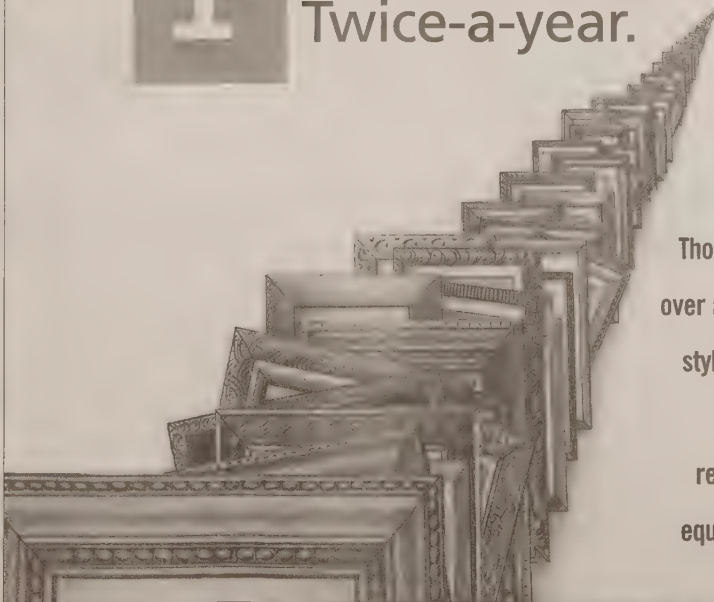


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Events

FROM PAGE C7

matchmaker, courts curmudgeonly country bachelor Horace Vandergelder. Meanwhile, Vandergelder's two young clerks sneak away to the big city searching for some adventure and romance of their own.

\$19 general; \$17 seniors; \$15 students; \$12 children ages 12 and under. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.; July 27, 8 p.m. Alan Harvey Theater, Piedmont High School, 800 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, (925) 798-1300.

SAN FRANCISCO MIME TROUPE — July 4 through Sept. 1. In their 42nd season, the troupe will be performing free in Bay Area parks and indoor venues across Northern California. They are presenting their new satirical musical action adventure, "Veronique of the Mounties," which addresses themes of militarism and empire. July 12 and July 13, 1:30 p.m.: Performance and live music. At Cedar Rose Park, 1300 Rose St., Berkeley. Free. For more information, call (415) 285-1717 or www.sfmt.org.

POPULAR MUSIC:

ASHKENAZ — Tropical Vibrations, Harry Best and Shabang, July 4, 9 p.m. \$13.

Vince Black with Root Awakening, July 5, 9:30 p.m. \$13.

Tekia, July 6, 7:30 p.m. \$12.

Bandworks, July 7, 7:30 p.m. \$4.

Grupa Maistori, July 8, 9 p.m. Dance lessons at 7:30 p.m. \$11.

Atash, Shabaz, July 9, 9 p.m. \$11.

Bandworks, July 10, 7:30 p.m. \$4.

Steve Lucky and the Rumba Burns with Ms. Carmen Getit, Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, July 11, 9:30 p.m. \$17.

The Laffeur et Basile Band, The Creole Belles, July 12, 9 p.m. Dance lessons at 8 p.m. \$14.

1317 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley. (510) 525-5055 or www.ashkenaz.com

BECKETT'S IRISH PUB — Seventy, July 4.

Nicole McRory, July 5, July 9, and July 12. Ponticello, July 10.

Sterling Dervish, July 11.

Free. For ages 21 and older. Music at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 647-1790 or www.beckettsirishpub.com

BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH — Illa-Dapted, Soul Rebels, The Ugly Percent, July 4, \$6.

Lavish Green, Free For Sale, July 5, \$5.

The Storytellers, Eugene, Soular, July 6, \$3.

All Star Jam featuring The Steve Gan-non Band and Mz. Dee, July 7, \$4.

Spunk, July 10, \$5.

Solemite, KGB, July 11, \$7.

Wig Salad, Naresh, July 12, \$6.

Five Year Space Effort, Moziac, Feral Moan, July 13, \$3.

For ages 18 and older. Music at 9:30

p.m. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-0886 or www.blakesontelegraph.com

CATO'S ALE HOUSE — Saul Kaye Trio, July 6.

Irish Session with Brian Theriault, July 9.

Jose Roberto y Sus Amigos, July 12. Ho' Down Trio, July 13.

Free. Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 3891 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-655-3349 or www.mrcato.com

DOWNTOWN — Mimi Fox Trio, July 4. Collective Amnesia, July 5.

Mimi Fox Solo Guitar, July 8.

Jules Broussard and Ned Boynton, July 9.

Keni El Lebriano Flamenco Guitar, July 10.

Kim Nalley, July 11.

Vince Lateano, July 12.

Free. Tuesday through Thursday at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 p.m. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810 or www.downtown-restaurant.com

FREIGHT AND SALVAGE — Peter Rowan, True Blue, Earl Brothers, July 5, \$18.50 to \$19.50.

All Strings Considered, July 8, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Chris and Cassie Webster with Scott Nygaard, July 9, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Trailer Park Troubadours, July 10, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Blame Sally, July 11, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Alex de Grassi, July 12, \$16.50 to \$17.50.

Carol Elizabeth Jones and Laurel Bliss, July 13, \$15.50 to \$16.50.

Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761 or 510-762-BASS or www.freightandsalvage.org

JACK LONDON SQUARE — "Fourth of July Fireworks and the Oakland East

Bay Symphony," July 4, noon to 7 p.m. Featuring Ladies, Rendezvous, and the Oakland East Bay Symphony. Michael Morgan conducting. There will also be family and children's activities including games, giveaways, sweepstakes, food, and arts and crafts booths.

Free. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. 510-814-6000 or www.jacklondonsquare.com

LA PENNA CULTURAL CENTER — Celebrate END Dependence Day, July 4 and July 5, 9 p.m. \$10.

Chus Alonso's Pontique Ensemble, July 10, 8 p.m. \$10 to \$12.

Rafael Manriquez, July 11, 8 p.m. \$10.

Fito Reynoso's Ritmo y Armonia, July 12, 9:30 p.m. \$10.

3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568 or www.lapenna.org

MCGRATH'S IRISH PUB — "Sea Chanteys and Songs of the Waterways," Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Free. 1539 Lincoln Ave., Alameda. (510) 552-6263 or www.mcgrathspub.com

924 GILMAN ST. — S.T.F.U., Crucial Unit, Dead Fall, Death from Above, Stung Up, July 4.

Cost. From Monument to Masses, Red Light Sting, 1905, Cinema Eye, July 5. Shotwell, Grabass Charlesons, Billy Reese Peters, Tiltwheel, July 11.

Shows are \$5 and start at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926.

QUINN'S LIGHTHOUSE — The Starboard Watch featuring Skip Henderson, Thursday, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free. 51 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland. (510) 536-2050.

THE STARRY PLOUGH PUB — Six-FourTwo, My Hero, July 4, \$5.

Pernice Brothers, Warren Zanes, Heav-

enly States, July 5, \$10.

The Starry Irish Music Session with Shay Black, July 6.

Leslie Helpert, Reorchestra, July 10, \$5.

Jessica Lurie Ensemble, Crater, Japonize Elephants, July 11, \$7.

Pocket, 7th Direction, Spindrift, July 12, \$6.

For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082.

YOSHI'S — Diane Schuur, through July 6, \$18 to \$22.

Ann Dyer, July 7, \$7 to \$14.

The Slip, July 8, \$7 to \$14.

Jessica Williams Trio, July 9 and July 10. Featuring Ray Drummond and Victor Lewis. \$10 to \$20.

Pete Escovedo and his Orchestra, July 11 through July 13, \$24.

Sunday Children's Matinee: \$10 per adult with one child, \$5 per child.

Shows are Monday through Saturday.

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Today's Real Estate in the East Bay by Marc Guay

SHOULD I SELL OR RENT OUT MY OLD HOME?

A seemingly simple question: We own our home free and clear and we want to live in a smaller home further away from the rush and tumble of the city. We'd like to hold on to the first home as a rental property. We'll need a new mortgage to buy our next home, of course. Will lenders balk at someone who hasn't sold his former home? And are there any other ramifications to consider?

The answer to the first part of the question is that lenders will probably be very pleased that you are holding on to your first home, because it will provide you with a positive cash flow, adding to the income that allows you to qualify for the mortgage. The lender will simply need a relatively accurate idea of how much rent you will be able to charge.

The answer to the second part of the question is a bit more complex. Often, one of the great benefits of owning investment real estate is the depreciation deduction, especially if you expect your tax bracket to be smaller in the future than it is today. The problem is that your deduction is based on the market value of the home — and we can assume that you bought your free-and-clear home for far less than it is worth today. For more details on the tax implications talk with your tax advisor. For assistance with all your real estate needs, call Marc at 280-2103 and visit his web site at www.marcguay.com.

Marc Guay is a Realtor® with Red Oak Realty in Berkeley.

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CASE: #8

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Friday, July 4, 2003

Section D

MICHELLE KREBS
She's Freewheeling

Deep bonds formed in cocoon of car

MOTOR MATTERS

There's something about traveling in a car that makes people talk. Total strangers spilling their guts to you in an airplane, or a parking lot on the therapist's couch.

I discovered this diarrhea of the mouth in my job as an auto journalist. On test-drives, strangers pair up for the day, often for one of traveling several hundred miles.

Eventually, the topics of conversation drift from the car, to comments on other cars, to the auto industry in general, and even to non-automotive subjects like love relationships, world

peace, the cocoon of the vehicle, where our dreams, our disappointments and our transgressions are hidden, one colleague calls me "keeper of secrets." Through the course of the drive, we build a friendship that lasts a lifetime.

The same goes with our families. So it was with horror recently I read, in a New York newspaper, a service that parents hire to take their children from school to lessons, to sports practice, to the gym. I believe me, there have been many days when I have resented a little more than an unpaid and appreciated cab driver, and I had such a service to hire. Hey, what I would have missed

Freewheeling, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

SUBARU ADDS TURBO power to its 2004 Forester all-wheel drive crossover SUV, making it both exciting to drive and practical.

Subaru launches turbocharged Forester 2.5 XT

MOTOR MATTERS

For anyone who thought that a Subaru was a high functioning, practical wagon — but not very exciting — think again. Think: turbocharged high performance.

The 2004 Subaru Forester 2.5 XT is a turbocharged all-wheel drive crossover sport utility vehicle that is both exciting and practical.

The new Forester XT is one of three 2004 models built with a turbocharged engine, designed to satisfy drivers hungry for rally race car horsepower.

Subaru's two other high perfor-

mance 2004 vehicles are the Impreza WRX STi and the Baja Turbo.

The Forester 2.5 XT starts at \$24,970 with the standard-equipped five-speed manual transmission. My tester was the top-of-the-line 2.5 XT with the optional Premium Package priced at \$28,070.

This package featured a four-speed automatic transmission, a power moonroof and leather upholstery. I liked the "supersized" version of the moonroof; it was extra long, allowing air and light to reach the second-row passengers.

The Forester 2.5 XT has lots of

CONNIE KEANE
Keane on Wheels

get-up-and-go attitude. With a turbocharger under its hood, the 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine produces 210 horsepower at 5,600 rpm.

But the most important feature about the turbo engine is the torque rating: it generates 235 pounds-foot of torque at 3,600 rpm, giving the Forester excellent qualities for highway passing.

The turbocharger also performs better than normally aspirated engines especially at high mountain altitudes. Subaru says the 2.5 XT has 42 percent more torque than the other Forester models.

The lineup also includes the normally aspirated, 165-horsepower, four-cylinder Forester 2.5 X and 2.5 XS.

The 2.5 XT is distinguished from the other Forester models with unique exterior styling cues. It has a hood scoop that allows fresh air intake to reach the turbocharger's intercooler which is mounted onto

the engine.

The roof rails have a natural aluminum finish, the side cladding is body-colored, the 16-inch tires are accentuated with raised lettering and six-spoke alloy wheels, and the rear end features a chrome tailpipe.

The Forester's interior is standard equipped with a black flat-woven seating upholstery with cloth trim along the side bolsters, plus a leather-trimmed steering wheel, shift knob and parking brake handle.

See KEANE, Page D2

JULY 4TH SAVINGS BLAST

2003 Chevy Cavalier Sedan		2003 Chevy Malibu Sedan		2003 Chevy Impala Sedan		2003 Chevy Monte Carlo LS	
SAVE \$5500 <small>MSRP \$15,460 Bill Nelson Disc. -\$1,500 Rebate -\$4,000</small> Net Cost \$9,960 <small>1 @ this price #221597/20226</small>		SAVE \$5500 <small>MSRP \$20,060 Bill Nelson Disc. -\$2,500 Rebate -\$3,000</small> Net Cost \$14,560 <small>1 @ this price #668956/20338</small>		SAVE \$5500 <small>MSRP \$22,430 Bill Nelson Disc. -\$2,500 Rebate -\$3,000</small> Net Cost \$16,930 <small>1 @ this price #322449/20328</small>		SAVE \$5500 <small>MSRP \$23,110 Bill Nelson Disc. -\$2,500 Rebate -\$3,000</small> Net Cost \$17,610 <small>1 @ this price #407703/20396</small>	

2003 Chevy Avalanche Z-71		'03 Chevy Suburban LT		'03 Chevy Silverado LS Crew Cab H.D.	
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Dual purpose 2003 Jeep Liberty Sport: Off-road done right

MOTOR MATTERS

These days, most SUVs are sheep in wolves clothing. They may dress like a mountain goat, but they drive more like a mall rat.

It's no secret that more and more sport utilities are less and less worthy of off-roading. From a marketing perspective it makes sense, since most people don't care if they ever venture off road. However, if you do care, I've got two words for you: Jeep Liberty.

All new in 2002, Liberty is a mid-size SUV with a dual purpose. Liberty aims to offer on-road comfort and true, off-road capability. It's built for the job with a stout, ladder-frame chassis.

Check the off-road group on the option list (\$765) and you pick up skid plates to protect the powertrain, front suspension, fuel tank and transfer case. The "dirt" package also includes a heavy-duty cooling system, tow hooks, a locking differential and a set of dual use, all-terrain tires.

Jeep claims that the Liberty's platform is the stiffest it has ever designed. Aided by the rigid chassis, the suspension (coil spring front, link-coil rear) has over 8.0 inches of travel, ideal for soaking up extreme terrain.

The 4x4 versions have 6.4 inches of ground clearance at the front axle, 7.9 inches in back, with approach and departure angles of 36.0 and 31.5 degrees respectively.

Liberty can be had in rear-wheel drive or a choice of two four-wheel drive systems. While both Command-Trac and Select-Trac offer low-range gearing, the former must be disengaged when you switch to dry pavement.

My Liberty Sport tester had the Select-Trac system, a \$395 option. A pull-up lever situated on the center console is used to switch to 2WD, 4WD part-time, 4WD full-time and 4WD low range.

On the trail, the Liberty tester proves sure-footed and stable. The flexible suspension steps over obstacles easily. It ranks with the top of the mid-size sport utility class, when it comes to off-roading.

On road, Liberty's ride and handling are a shade rougher than car-based contemporaries, though not harsh. For 2003, Jeep lowered Liberty's suspension by about an inch in the interest of improving cornering stability.

Also revised this model year is the braking system. Now, discs on all four corners are standard, though four-wheel ABS remains optional (\$600). So equipped, Liberty is reassuringly quick to slow.

The interior holds four adults in comfort, though rear seat passengers will be brushing their knees against the front seatbacks, if all are long-legged. No such caveats concerning headroom, though.

The Liberty's upright posture allows enough room to handle even a revival of big hairstyles.

A side-swinging door, with a separate opening window, accesses the rear cargo area. The door-style portal gains points for its curbside opening, though the two-piece design is slightly more cumbersome than a one-piece swing-up hatch.

Once open, there is a generous, 29 cubic feet of space available, expandable to 69 cubic feet if you opt to fold the 65/35 split rear seatbacks down.

The front cabin is generally well laid out, though the location of the controls for power windows (on the center console) takes



DAN LYONS
Get Off the Road

JEEP LIBERTY is mid-size SUV that is designed to go off-road with "stiffest platform" Jeep has ever built.

some getting used to. Visibility is good in all directions; with the back view hindered only by rear seat head rests.

My test vehicle was a Sport model, joining the up-level Limited and the newly offered Renegade models in the revised 2003 Liberty lineup. The as-tested price of \$24,780 included Jeep's 3.7-liter Power Tech V6 — an \$850 option.

The six-cylinder engine generates 210 horsepower and 235 pounds-foot of torque, and, coupled to the optional four-speed automatic transmission (\$825), is EPA rated at 17 mpg city and 21 highway.

This powertrain matches nicely with Liberty's size and weight, and, with the available towing package (\$285), offers a class-leading towing capacity of 5,000 pounds.

Towing capacity with the 3.7 and manual transmission is 3,500 pounds. The Liberty's base 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine is down some 60 horsepower compared to the six. Jeep says that about 85 percent of Libertys are sold with the V6, and I would recommend it over the smaller motor.

Liberty is a solid choice in the mid-size utility field, especially for outdoor enthusiasts. It's right-sized in town, sure-footed off road, and will tow big for its size.

On road or off, it's got you covered.

she had endured in elementary school when kids made fun of her for her looks, her size, and her nerdiness.

Would I — and the others — understand this girl's quirkiness had I left the driving to someone else? No way. Nor would I know who's dating whom, which teachers rock and which are idiots, and the outrageousness of what occurs in high school bathrooms.

And then there's the funny stuff. Like the night my son and I car-seat danced to the 1980s music on the XM Satellite Radio as we car-pooled to swim practice.

I'm frequently the designated driver for concerts. I learn the newest music kids are listening to — some of which I could easily do without. On the way to one such gig, my daughter and her silly friends played with the navigation system and explained their theories on how GPS works.

"There are midgets on skateboards underneath the car telling it where to go," said one wisecracker. "But you have to be careful you don't hit one backing up. Otherwise you have to order a new one from Europe." It was hysterical. Guess you had to be there.

And then there are the long road trips. We can't wait for next year's trek down California's coast. No telling what I'll learn on that one.

Freewheeling

FROM PAGE D1

out on. And what these too-busy parents are missing out on.

The unfolding coming of age of my 11-year-old son has been revealed in our recent commutes to baseball games. On one such drive, this shy boy — or so I thought — informed me that he was looking forward to "going out with girls."

Apparently he was preparing me, for only a week later he told me his buddies had dates to the movies on Friday night. "Are you going, too?" I asked. "Well, 'She' (her name is withheld to protect from embarrassment) asked me to go," he hesitated, a clear hint he needed a nudge to say yes.

"So 'She' likes you?" I quizzed him. He turned to me, rolled his eyes as adolescents do and said in his sardonic tone, "Ya think."

How would I have known all that if I had left the driving to a stranger? Or how would I have known that my son's buddies in Mr. Smith's fifth grade class think I'm cool, "And you should be proud of that," my son told me.

My soon-to-drive 15-year-old daughter, similarly, opens up in the car, as she does nowhere else. For instance, she let down the stoic facade she'd been wearing for weeks after the break-up with her first boyfriend and confessed her hurt and anger over being lied to and betrayed.

Would she have revealed that to a chauffeur? I doubt it. My own mother gave me "The Talk" about girls becoming women as we made our monthly visit to the orthodontist. A cab driver couldn't do that.

Car-pooling allows parents to get to know their kids' friends as well. En route to the funeral of a friend's brother, I was introduced to my daughter's newest friends. I learned a lot about them. One confided to the other girls (and unwittingly to me) the pain

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

Comfort and convenience amenities include automatic climate control, heated seats and outside mirrors, assist grips in all seating positions, as well as a 120-Watt AM/FM/Weatherband stereo system with an in-dash six-disc CD player and seven speakers.

A feature that made a big impression on me during my test-drive was the nighttime illumination around the ignition switch and on the window switches of all four doors. In the darkness of night, I was glad to be able to slide the key into the illuminated ignition easily, rather than fumble around.

The second row seats can be folded flat (60/40 split-fold) to allow spacious capacity to carry cargo of up to 64 cubic feet. The Forester has a ground clearance of 7.5 inches and can tow up to 2,400 pounds.

Subaru puts strong emphasis on safety and performance, considering them as opposite sides of the same coin: Safety and performance are entwined, never to be separated.

The automaker has the best scores in independent crash testing to prove it. Not only does Subaru give owners the peace of mind of all-wheel drive, but front passenger head and chest side-impact airbags are standard equipment.

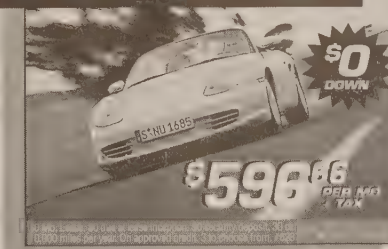
Subaru has thought outside the boxer engine. Now, when I think of Subaru as practical but ho-hum, I'll think outside the box and think: turbocharged.

SUBARU FORESTER 2.5 XT

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger AWD sport utility vehicle
Suggested Retail	\$24,970
Price as Tested	\$28,070
Engine Type	DOHC 2.5-liter four-cylinder
	turbo w/SMFI
Horsepower	210 at 5,600 rpm
Torque	235 at 3,600 rpm
Transmission	Four-speed automatic
Wheelbase	99 inches
Height	63 inches
Turning Circle	(curb-to-curb) 35 feet
Curb Weight	3,300 pounds
Fuel Capacity	16 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 19/23
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\$15,888	\$15,975	\$15,975
'01 HONDA ACCORD EX V6 Coupe, Moonroof, Leather, Rear Wing. #025882/3136	'02 HONDA ODYSSEY Auto, AC, PW, ABS, CD, Cass. #523063/3164C	'00 HONDA S2000 6 Spd, Rear Wing, CD, Lock. #001848/3031C
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1941 Buick convertible 'discovered' behind house

MOTOR MATTERS

My dad always had Buicks," Transport recalled. When he was 12, he saw his first car in the driveway — a 1941 Buick two-door sedan. In later years Transport learned from the Buick brand, he joined loyal to General Motors. In December 1998, he and his wife, Janice, were motoring through Shenandoah Valley near Charlottesville, Va., when they saw a Chevrolet parked near the house displaying a "for sale" sign. "I always liked old cars," Transport said. He stopped. He noticed a sign reading there were more old cars in a nearby garage behind the house. The inquisitive couple went to investigate and were astounded at what they found. They had stumbled upon a bro- antique automobiles. In the garage, parked side-by-side, were 1941 convertibles, a Buick and Packard. Transport was a Buick dealer. He immediately forgot about the Buick by the road and carefully examined both of the 1941 convertibles. Which one to buy? He couldn't make up his mind and his wife left to think it over. "Sometimes," he said, "no decision is the decision." After a week or two of anxious wondering, the Transports returned for another look at the cars and dis-

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

covered that the Packard had been sold. The decision had been made for them.

Transport bought the green Buick in January 1999. A couple of weeks passed before they returned to take possession of their prize.

With the tan top in the raised position and the under-seat heater throwing out BTUs, Transport drove the Buick 70 miles home to Woodbridge, Va., secure in the knowledge that his safety net — his wife — was following in a modern car.

Most of the trip was made at speeds between 45 and 60 miles per hour.

The Buick performed flawlessly and the new owner smiled all the way home. "I don't know if the smile has gone away yet," a still-happy Transport said.

Much of the car's history is a mystery. He does know that his car was restored in the Midwest during the early 1980s. About 4,300 of the 1941 Buick Special convertible coupes were manufactured in the last full year of automobile production before World War II. Each one had a base price of \$1,138.

The AM radio receives signals through the vacuum-powered an-



MOTOR MATTERS

OWNER DECIDES to add rear fender skirts trimmed with chrome spears to his 1941 Buick convertible and finds them on e-bay.

tenna on the left front fender. The five push buttons on the radio are labeled with big block letters spelling B-U-I-C-K. The power antenna and radio package was a \$65 accessory. The dual defrosters cost an extra \$7.50.

The 3,780-pound convertible rides on a 118-inch wheelbase and is propelled by 115 horsepower delivered by the 248-cubic-inch straight-eight-cylinder engine.

Unlike modern-day Buicks with automatic transmissions, Transport works through the gears, shifting

manually while seated behind the three-spoke steering wheel whenever he takes his car out for some exercise.

"I've had it up to 75 mph as a test and I think there's more," he said.

Historical pictures of 1941 Buicks show some of them with rear fender skirts trimmed with chrome spears. He decided his Buick had to have skirts. In 1941 the skirts would have been a \$10 option.

He found a pair of skirts offered on e-bay from New England. He

bought them but had to search elsewhere for the chrome spears that add that extra pizzazz.

There is no shortage of bright work on the Buick. Each wheel has a beauty ring surrounding the hubcap. Additionally, the parking lights above the headlights are encased in chrome.

At the curvaceous rear end of the Buick is the trunk. It contains an amazingly small amount of space. A shelf over the horizontally positioned spare tire provides a flat surface.

Transport's Buick abounds in features including the clock in the glove compartment door. The vacuum-operated windshield wipers are controlled by a dash-top plastic knob on the other side of the glass from the cowl ventilator.

Transport is happy to be one of the owners of such a limited convertible from 1941.

If you have a vehicle of interest to "Classic Classics" readers, write to Motor Matters, 4635 Bailey Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808-4109 detailing its merits.

Replacing CV joint's rubber boot best left to the pros

KNOW-IT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

I just finished changing the oil on my '95 Corolla and noticed the left-outer axle rubber cup holding a small amount of grease surrounding area.

After cleaning things up, I found a small split in its accordion-like rubber ribs. How big a deal is this? By my estimate it has lost less than a teaspoon of grease. How difficult is this part to change?

Will this keep until I have some vacation time and/or money budgeted for it?

Jeremy Wagner
Manteca, Calif.

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

A Before we take a look at your Corolla's CV boots, let's brush up a bit on the parts they protect.

Your front-wheel-drive system has four constant velocity (CV) joints, one near each end of each front axle.

CV joints allow the axles to bend — for steering purposes, and flex, as the vehicle's suspension moves up and down.

Because of the rather sharp angles encountered, and the need for telescopic movement, CV joints are

more sophisticated — and expensive — than the universal joints used in a rear-wheel-drive vehicle's drive shaft.

CV joints, due to their close-tolerance machining, need to be securely sealed to retain vitally important grease and to keep dirt and moisture out. Each joint is encased in a ribbed and highly flexible rubber boot.

The inner boot is optimized for telescopic movement, where the outer boot must withstand frequent and sometimes severe angular changes, particularly during U-turns. It is not unusual to encounter a leaking/split boot, usually an outer one, after 75,000 or more miles of service.

How quickly should you move on this? If the split is large enough to let a moderate to large quantity of grease to escape, and water/dirt to enter, the CV joint will begin to wear rapidly.

If the joint wears to the point of noisy operation — usually a clicking sound during low speed/sharp turns (outer joint), or a clunking noise during initial acceleration or braking (inner joint), you'll be looking at a much larger repair bill (a new joint or axle assembly).

If the boot split is small, you can probably get by until the next oil change (three to four months) before replacing it.

What does it take to renew a CV boot? Unfortunately, the axle must

be removed from the car and largely disassembled.

Doing so involves separating the lower ball joint and pressing the outer end of the drive shaft apart from the steering knuckle/hub. The shaft is then pried or tapped free from the transaxle.

One CV joint, in your case the inner one, must be separated from the axle shaft before the boot(s) can be removed. While the axle shaft is apart, the affected CV joint should be disassembled and thoroughly cleaned, then repacked with special grease.

Also, since it's necessary to remove and replace the inner boot in order to disassemble the shaft, it makes sense to renew it as well.

Unless you're quite handy under a car, and have a shop manual and the specialty tools necessary to do the job, I'd hand this greasy chore over to a pro.

Removing the axle, disassembling and reassembling it, and properly attaching the boot require a certain level of finesse, and there are far better ways to spend a vacation day.

Brad Bergholdt teaches automotive technology at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif.

E-mail him at under-the-hood@juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal replies.

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Limited number of new Pontiac GTOs to be produced

With its high-output V8 engine, rear-wheel drive configuration and high-torque off-the-line acceleration, the all-new 2004 Pontiac GTO delivers the legendary power of its original namesake.

The new GTO will produce 350 horsepower and 365 pounds-foot of torque, and is expected to go from 0-to-60 mph in less than 5.5 seconds.

A limited number of 2004 GTO vehicles is expected to be in showrooms by December.

Drink & drive you lose

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administra-

tion is launching an \$11-million ad campaign targeted at drivers most likely to drink and drive — males age 18-34.

NHTSA has mobilized thousands of law enforcement officers nationwide for sobriety checkpoints for 17 straight days, June 20-July 13.

An alarming trend has emerged in drinking and driving with data showing that in the past year the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths has increased.

Acura sales record

Acura vehicle sales for the month of May set an all-time monthly best record, totaling 16,495 units.

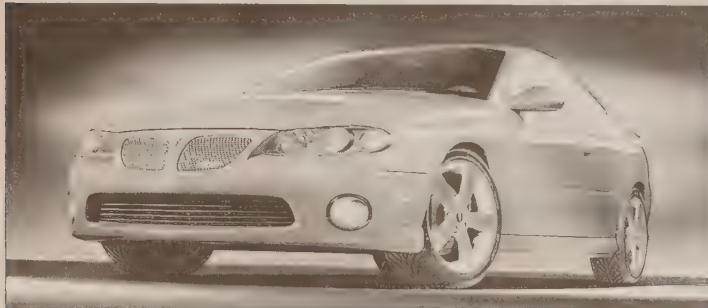
Strong demand for the all-new 2004 TSX sports sedan pushed sales for the month. Acura executives say buyers are drawn to the TSX's sporty performance and class-leading feature content.

Mariner newest Mercury

Throughout all of 2004, the 2005 Mercury Mariner sport utility will be displayed in the Lincoln-Mercury showrooms.

The Mariner brings a contemporary design to customers who are looking for a compact urban SUV.

This vehicle is designed for those who don't need the cargo and passenger space of the larger seven-passenger vehicles.



PONTIAC brings back the GTO, left, with a 2004 model that lives up to the legendary power of its original namesake.

MOTOR MATTERS



MERCURY'S new Mariner SUV, left, doesn't debut until 2005, but prospective buyers can get an early look in Lincoln-Mercury showrooms next year.

MOTOR MATTERS

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The Mariner will have design sophistication, more standard features, and a unique content that will appeal to Mercury buyers.

Used cars

The weak economy and dealer incentives on new cars are making the used-car deals even sweeter.

Aggressive dealer incentives and zero-percent financing deals on new cars have combined with a growing glut of used-car inventories to hammer the market for used cars.

A Newsday article reports that the best

deal depends on extensive comparison shopping, the type of car chosen, financing of the purchase, and whether the car has suffered damage, if any, the car has suffered.

24-hour test-drive

If the dealer won't allow you to test-drive a car home for an overnight visit, the other way to get to know that vehicle is to rent it.

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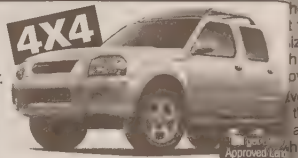
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And at your local car dealership, front and center is a row of shiny Chevrolet, Ford, Dodge and GMC full-sized vans. By 1978, they'll be selling 870,000 vans a year.

Last year, they sold 330,000, and there haven't been any real hit songs about vans.

Admit it: If it weren't for Baby-Doo's "Mystery Machine" and your local plumber, I wouldn't even know any more about big vans.

The manufacturers, though, don't intend to change that. Sales of full-sized vans will never again reach 870,000 a year, but there is movement in the industry.

Even so, some analysts foresee the future of the full-sized van as holding its own, not growing.

George Pipas, manager of analysis for Ford, doesn't see the van making a major comeback.

Sales started going down when minivans were introduced in the mid-'80s and just kept falling, he said.

"I don't think there's all that much room for growth. Maybe not. But what is the catalyst for growth?"

According to Ross Hendrix, a commercial marketing manager for General Motors, the catalyst is some new features on vans, and perhaps a return business from former van customers who tried minivans or sport utility vehicles

and found them less adaptable to certain situations.

Such as? "The conversion van market for one," he said. That market, which converts bare vans to rolling living rooms, shrunk dramatically, resulting in the downsizing or closure of some major companies, including Mark III in Ocala.

"But the stronger ones survived and are doing some great work," Hendrix said. "We have arrangements with 28 converters now."

The Chevrolet Express van and its twin, the GMC Savanah, are the newest vans on the market, though Ford has continuously updated its Econoline.

Dodge quit building its full-sized vans — some dealers have a few left to sell — but DaimlerChrysler is pinning its hopes on the Sprinter, introduced in Europe in 1995.

Gaining popularity with delivery companies such as FedEx and with airport van transporters, the Sprinter — built in South Carolina from parts sent from Europe — is sold through Freightliner dealers, but select Dodge dealers now are marketing it as both a commercial and private option to other vans.

The Sprinter is taller, narrower and pricier than regular vans, and is powered by a diesel engine — a plus for some customers, a negative for others.

GM is marketing an all-wheel-drive version of the Express and Savanah, which, Hendrix said, makes a full-sized van a year-round option for customers in the North.

GM also is offering a left-side passenger door.

And GM announced recently that it will equip its 15-passenger Express and Savanah vans with a computer-controlled stability system that will recognize a skid and apply one or more brakes to help control it, thus helping prevent rollover.

This system has been avail-

able in many GM vehicles for several years; the fact that it, plus a left-side second door and an all-wheel-drive option, is news in the full-sized van market suggests how stagnant the products have been during the

past decade.

How bright is the future of big vans? That's anyone's guess.

But, Hendrix said, "Anyone who thinks the full-sized van market is dead, is dead wrong."

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BY DANNY HAKIM
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Runge, the traffic agency's current administrator, has a leading role because his agency actually writes the regulations, although Graham has used his power in the

The largest sport utilities and pickups, those with a curb weight greater than three tons, are not even part of the regulatory system. That means automakers do not have to count many Hummers, Toyota Land Cruisers or Lincoln Navigators, to name a few.

"When you look at today's fleet, manu-

The industry's arguments were bolstered by a 2001 National Academy of Sciences report, which said that cars being

"My intention is to seek wide comment on this topic to the public meetings," Runge said.

[illegible]

fruitful giant has ad a few lemons

BY MARK PHELAN
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Ford Motor Co. created the Model T, Mustang F-series pickup, but it's also the company that coined the term "lemon" for failure with Edsel, after all.

Here's a brief look at some of Ford's lesser achievements, in order of the model year in which they debuted.

58 Edsel

A brand that deserved a better fate, as evidenced by the collectors who cherish the long-looking cars to this day. Ford created Edsel to give it a shot to compete with Oldsmobile and Buick buyers. Edsel's launch was delayed several years before going on sale in fall of 1957.

The Edsel range consisted of the Ranger, Pacer, Corsair Citation and totaled 18 models, including station wagons and convertibles.

"Much of the problem was timing," said Todd Lassa, Deputy Editor of Motor Trend magazine. "It came out during the big postwar recession."

In addition, the start of production was rocky, and quality was shaky even by the standards of the time.

The four factories building Edsels were already running full, building Fords and Mercurys, and the company further strained the assembly line to squeeze in the extra cars. That ensured that the workers resented the cars, and plant managers looked at the Edsel as a problem waiting to happen.

Ford killed the brand after the 1960 model year. It had sold 110,817 Edsels — barely the projected sales for the model's first year.

"People said the grille looked like somebody sucking on a lemon," said John McElroy, host of the TV program "Autoline Daily." "It came out with a premium price as a recession buster. Mix that together and you have a flop."

1969 Maverick

The Maverick sold far beyond Ford's expectations when it hit the market in mid-1969, but by the end of the car's life, it had become known as a rust-prone, muscle car wanna-be.

"The Maverick was an honest attempt to build a small car with sporty appeal, but nothing about its mechanicals supported that," said Thomas Bryant, editor-in-chief of Road & Track magazine.

Ford stopped building the Maverick in 1977 — but not until the little car had been subjected to the indignities of two-tone paint schemes and the Stallion option package, which included a stallion decal on the front fenders.

1971 Pinto

A good car gone bad. The Pinto began its life as an enjoyable and fuel-efficient little car, McElroy said, but things went downhill fast.

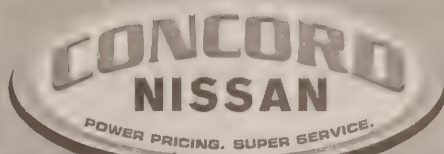
"The '71 Pinto had a 100-horsepower German engine and was superbly built," McElroy said. "Then they put an anemic 2.3-liter American-made engine in it and had to meet the new emissions standards. It became a slug: heavy and slow, with bad handling and poor fuel economy."

Despite the fact that Larry Shinoda, the same man who designed the classic split-window Chevrolet Corvette, penned the Pinto design, the car also had "hideously bad drag," thanks to a "uniquely wrong" angle for its rear window, said Frank Markus, technical director of Car and Driver magazine. However, it was the Pinto's infamous fuel-tank fires that defined the car's short, unhappy life.

A series of the highly publicized fires led to lawsuits, and a Ford memo referring to the problem surfaced in the muck-raking magazine Mother Jones, McElroy said.

"All small cars at the time had the same problem, but

See LEMONS, Page D8



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Ford embarks on the second hundred years — will remain focus

BY MICHELLE KREBS
MOTOR MATTERS

The cleanup is under way. The second century has begun for Ford Motor Co. And no one is happier about that than William Clay Ford Jr., current CEO and great grandson of company founder, Henry Ford.

Meeting with a small group of reporters on the eve of Ford's gigantic centennial extravaganza, Ford said he was looking forward to the day after the celebration and getting back to business.

Ford took over the reins of the car company almost two years ago following the dismissal of Jacques Nasser, after which Ford reported a loss of more than \$5 billion.

Since taking over, Ford has focused on turning the automaker around. He has undone Nasser's diversification efforts, returned to the basics of the car and truck business, and he has brought in his own whiz kids: Ford retirees he jokingly refers to as "the grumpy old men."

"We've been managing the company quarter to quarter, and it is working. The results are coming," Ford told reporters. "When this management team came in, we had to regain the credibility of our constituencies — our employees, dealers, suppliers, shareholders and customers."

"I felt it was important not to distract the company, so we laid out an explicit plan without layers of objectives in order to get back to basics. Then we slavishly went after it. I didn't want to distract people, confuse them or give them too much to do."

Ford admits that being a member of the Ford family, which owns about 40 percent of the automaker, has had a stabilizing effect. "I'm not taking the money and running, and that resonates with employees and dealers. Ford will be a part of my life no matter what role I play."

But clearly Ford is anxious to

move beyond keeping the company afloat and putting his vision in place, ultimately creating his own legacy.

"Longer term, we need a vision for Ford Motor Co. I've always had one," he said, adding that senior management is devising just such a plan, and may lay it out as early as late this year.

Simply put, Ford's vision for the automaker is to build a strong business, great products and better world. "That's what I'd like to be known for," he said. "If I can achieve the elements of those, I'll feel like this was time well spent for me and for the company."

With that mission, the automaker will remain focused on the basic car and truck business. And it will examine its allocation of resources in terms of geographical markets, market segments and technologies.

The company is also looking at just how big it should be. "Are we making the right bets with the billions we're spending?" Ford asks.

"Being big isn't necessarily being best, I'm more concerned with doing everything well, and being seen as doing everything well. Then the growth will follow."

William Clay Ford Jr., CEO

"Being big isn't necessarily being best," he adds. "I'm more concerned with doing everything well, and being seen as doing everything well. Then the growth will follow."

Ford acknowledges: "This is a very exciting time for us as a company, but it is also one fraught with peril because our decisions can be fatal."

Ford also intends to advance his environmental commitment, contradicting recent attacks by environmentalists that he has gone soft.

"It hurts," he admits, "to be singled out when for many years I was the lone voice in the wilderness. It surprised and disappointed me, but my vision is still the same. I've just had some business realities that I've had to address in recent years. It still excites me to think about eliminating in the future the social trade-offs that industry has today."

He points to the reconstruction



WILLIAM CLAY FORD JR. stands in front of Ford's 2004 F-150 pickup, the vehicle the company hopes turns its fortunes around and focuses on truck and car production.

Lemons

FROM PAGE D7

Mother Jones had the memo, and the lawyers had a field day," he said.

"It's unfortunate that a car that started out as a good, nimble little machine ended so ignominiously," he said. "It deserved a better fate than being taken out behind the barn and shot."

Ford built the Pinto through the 1980 model year and replaced it with the Escort.

2002 Lincoln Blackwood

The first attempt to build a luxury pickup, the Blackwood was another example of an apparently can't-miss concept that went down in flames. A \$52,000-plus

pickup designed for the horse set, the Blackwood lacked four-wheel drive and couldn't tow a horse trailer.

"It was uniquely unsuited to its target market," Markus said. "Never has a product so richly deserved failure."

Lincoln expected to sell 10,000 Blackwoods a year but had sold fewer than 3,600 when it killed the truck in November 2002, barely a year after it went on sale.

"I never understood what they were trying to achieve with the Blackwood," Smith said. "It was a styling exercise with no utility whatsoever. It died young, and it deserved to."

1991 Mercury Capri

It seemed like such a good idea at the time: Have renowned Italian design houses Ghia and ItalDesign

create a little convertible, use parts for quality and build it to keep it affordable.

The best-laid plans... The front-wheel drive Capri repeatedly delayed with eventually hitting the market the same time as the superior and more attractive Miata.

"It was almost free of engineering qualities," said David G. editor-at-large of Ward's Auto magazine. "It had about as much curb appeal."

In addition to a design grown old before the car even on sale, the Capri was plagued by quality problems.

"Ours was in the shop time, and it was no fun when it was running," Markus said. Ford killed the car in 1994.

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Mustang changed the tide

BY TONY SWAN

KING RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

1964 was 1964, and spring was in

Baines Johnson was in the
house and shaping his strategy for
presidential campaign: the Great
and the War on Poverty.

Nation would be perceived as the
candidate in his race against Barry
The Tonkin Gulf Resolution and
of agony that followed were
in the unknown future.

Seattles were at the top of the charts
their February debut on "The Ed
Show." Berry Gordy's Motown
was approaching the height of its
The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
for a November date with the
Peace Prize.

ally speaking, things looked good
— unless you happened to be
at the Ford Motor Co.

ing by just the bottom line, the
ry was in pretty good shape. But
Ford had been tolling in the
Chevrolet since the '30s, and it
a decade since Dearborn had
with a real head-turning car.
car, the Thunderbird, had long
come a bloated caricature of itself,
the most recent new car venture —
el — was, to be kind, a disaster.
needed a winner.

Mustang was it.
7.5 million Mustangs have been
in the past 39 years, and if the cur-
sion lacks the technical sophisti-
many contemporary sport coupes,
is a uniquely all-American persona.
irresistible lure of racy looks and
engines at an affordable price has
generations of buyers, imbuing the
Model T was the definitive Ford
of many's first 50 years, the Mustang
nirvaretable car of the second 50.
tempting to think that the Mustang
fully formed, from the brow of the
bifurcal and famous car executive of
1900s.

that's not an idea Lido Anthony la-
vour discourages.

ppa was running the Ford brand
time, and he wanted to build a
sporty car that would appeal to
buyers.

as usual, was playing catch-up,
had captivated teens and twen-
things with the Corvair in 1960.

rear-engine Corvair, especially the
150-horsepower Monza version,
tastily cool stuff and engagingly out
with the American performance
arm, which preferred brute power
able handling.

Ford's compact Falcon didn't have the
same kind of panache, and it would be a
while before Ralph Nader wrecked the Cor-
vair's reputation with "Unsafe at Any
Speed," which was published in Novem-
ber 1965.

Iacocca set the machinery in motion in
1960, but the Mustang didn't happen
overnight.

A number of concepts came and went
in Ford's design department. One of the
more interesting was the Mustang I — a
true, two-seat sports car with a 2.0-liter,
four-cylinder engine. It was endorsed by
Ford design chief Gene Bordinat.

(When Ford engineers named the car,
they were thinking of the World War II
fighter plane, not a horse. The equine im-
agery and galloping pony grille ornament
came much later from the marketing de-
partment.)

But Iacocca didn't like the Mustang I.
He demanded a backseat and more
oomph than the 100-horsepower four-cylin-
der engine could provide.

Bordinat and his troops went back to
work. Seven different design studios sub-
mitted concepts, but it was the Ford divi-
sion submission — under the guidance
of Joe Oros, Gale Halderman and David
Ash — that won over Iacocca and Henry
Ford II.

Ford chose the opening of the 1964
New York World's Fair — April 16 — for the
Mustang's official debut, and followed up
by providing a Mustang pace car for the
'64 Indy 500.

The base price was \$2,368. There were
two models, a convertible and a coupe,
available with four engine choices: a mil-
liquest 101-horsepower six-cylinder and
three V8s, ranging from 164 to 271 horse-
power. Three transmissions were offered:
a Fordomatic automatic, a three-speed
manual and a four-speed manual.

The response to the new car was im-
mediate and overwhelming. Orders quickly
outstripped production capacity of the Dear-
born plant, where the Mustang shared
space with the Falcon.

Ford opened a second Mustang as-
sembly line at its San Jose, Calif., plant in
July, and converted another Falcon line in
Metuchen, N.J., soon after that.

By the end of that abbreviated first year,
263,434 Mustangs had rolled out of Ford
showrooms, good enough for fifth place
on the '64 sales charts.

Ford added a fastback model and more
options for '65. When the calendar rolled
around to April again, the Mustang sales
tally stood at 418,000, a new first-year world
record.

The beat went on. There were more than
half a million registrations in 1965. And in
1966, production peaked at 607,568.

As the '60s gave way to the '70s, the

Mustang got bigger and heavier. Wood-
grain trim appeared inside certain models,
and vinyl appeared on some of the roofs.

The all-American pony car progenitor
was succumbing to the bloat that afflicted
so many U.S. products in the days before
the first fuel crisis.

Nevertheless, these were the Mustang's
real glory years. The period between 1964
and 1973 saw the advent of some truly
memorable offerings like the Shelby
GT350, the Boss 302 and the Boss 429,
to name just a few, as well as numerous
racing successes.

It's not unreasonable to say that the ori-
ginal series of Mustangs looked particularly
glorious in contrast to what followed.

Having established a winning formula,
Ford couldn't resist tampering with it. The
result was the Mustang II.

The designers abandoned the old Fal-
con foundations for the humble little Pinto
platform. Offered in awkward-looking two-
door coupe and hatchback body styles, it
was 7 inches shorter than the original Mus-
tang, came with a four-cylinder base en-
gine and lacked a V8 engine option.

Ford called it the "right car at the right
time," and in the wake of the '73 OPEC oil
embargo, the message seemed to have
some merit.

But mercifully, the right time proved to
be short. The Mustang II lasted just five
years before it was replaced by an all-new
car based on a new chassis — the Fox plat-
form — borrowed from the year-old Ford
Fairmont sedan.

In addition to providing better exterior
proportions and more interior room than
the cramped little Mustang II, the 1979 Mus-
tang reflected a renewed commitment to
performance.

Like the original, the third generation
was the result of an internal competition
between several Ford studios. The winning
design proposal came from a crew led by
Jack Teinack, then head of Ford North
American design.

It was a design that would endure far
beyond expectations, thanks in part to a
mid-'80s move to change the character of
the car.

In 1982, Ford began work on a joint ven-
ture project, code-named SN6, aimed at
replacing the Fox platform with a front-drive
design to be shared with the Mazda 626
and built at the new Flat Rock plant.

This seemed like a good idea to Ford
product planners looking to cut costs. But
when word inevitably leaked out, it was
anathema to Mustang faithful.

Wait a minute. Front-wheel drive? No
V8? A Japanese Mustang? You've got to
be kidding.

Donald Petersen was Ford chairman at
the time, and when he was deluged by tons
of outraged mail from Mustang fans, much
of it with lurid salutations, he decided SN6
might not be suitable as a Mustang re-
placement after all.

The new car became the Probe, intro-
duced as a 1989 model and since de-

ceased.

Rescued from impending oblivion, the
Fox platform Mustang soldiered on es-
sentially unchanged for another five years be-
fore it was completely restyled for the 1994
model year.

Although it has been updated, it's ba-
sically the same car we see today.

Now poised for a long-overdue
makeover, the Mustang represents one of
autodom's great survival stories.

When it first appeared, the Mustang re-
ally was the right car at the right time. It ap-
pealed to the then-youthful baby boom gen-
eration and inspired a bunch of imitators

that have all passed from the scene.

With the exception of the Mustang,
Ford's passenger car inventory has been
largely devoid of excitement for years. It's
the youth market special of the swinging
'60s that continues to lure buyers into Ford
showrooms.

Perhaps it's fitting that Ford enters its
second century with a new Mustang in the
works — a car whose retro design invokes
the style and fun of the original.

Could the racy little coupe that delighted
the boomers work the same magic on their
grandkids?

I suspect so.

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The high life is winding down for Jaguar mechanics

BY CHERYL JENSEN
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

If you are an import-car enthusiast of a certain age, you remember the jokes: if you want to drive a Jaguar, buy two — one of them will always be in the shop.

After Ford bought Jaguar in 1989, it made reliability a top priority. Joe Ivers, executive director of quality and customer satisfaction for J.D. Power & Associates, a market research firm, noticed the change.

"Throughout the '90s Jaguar had what I would characterize as a very athletic, consistent and dramatic improvement in initial quality," Ivers said.

The improvements also have been noted by owners and those who make a rather busy living working on the cars.

"If all we did was try to service new Jaguars, like we did back in the '80s, it would be a pretty dicey proposition," said Earl Gibbs, owner of North Coast Exotics in Cleveland, who has been repairing Jaguars since 1968. "I'd be like the Maytag man."

There are still enough vintage cars, however, to keep him busy.

The quality observations are backed up by J.D. Power's Vehicle Dependability Index, a survey of 30,000 original owners of vehicles four to five years old.

In the 2002 dependability study, which looked at 1998 models, Jaguar ranked ninth with 280 problems per 100 vehicles. Lexus was first with 159 problems.

Jaguar did even better the year before. In the 2001 study, Lexus was first with 173 problems per 100 vehicles. Infiniti was second with 219 and Jaguar was third with 250.

That doesn't mean Jaguar owners had a free ride.

Some of the durability issues owners mentioned in surveys on the last-generation XJ8 centered on uneven tire wear, brake noise and problems with the engine-control computer. But these were not seen as serious problems, Ivers said.

"There still is a good distance to cover before it's in the Lexus range, but the underappreciated fact is that Jaguar long-term durability is in the same range as vehicles produced by Toyota," he said.

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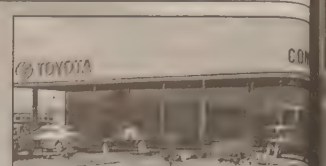
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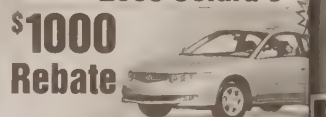
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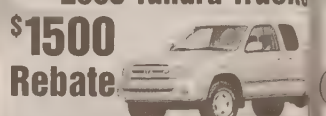
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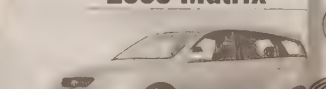
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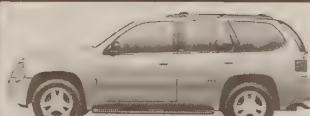


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Hyundai upgrades flagship sedan

NEWSDAY

Hyundai's flagship sedan, the XG350, is getting some aesthetic and functional upgrades for 2004.

The new version goes on sale officially next month.

Appearance changes include a new grille and headlamp design, new front and rear bumpers, and a new and brighter center, high-mounted stop lamp.

Functional changes include an increase in front brake rotor diameter from 10.9 to 12.1 inches and the addition of gas charged lifters to make the trunk lid easier to open.

Hyundai's most expensive sedan debuted for the 2001 model year and, for '02, got a larger, 194-hp, 3.5-liter, V6 engine, which carries over into 2004, mated to a five-speed automatic transmission.

Prices for 2004 models have not been announced.

The 2003 models begin at about \$23,500.

2005 Mustang to be a distillation of the past, but bigger

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

ORLANDO, Fla. — When Ford stylists were designing the all-new 2004 F-150 pickup truck, they had photos of the Chevrolet, GMC and Dodge pickups tacked to the wall, knowing those were the key vehicles they had to beat.

When Ford stylists were designing the all-new 2005 Mustang, the photos tacked to the wall were of — old Mustangs.

There is really nothing on the market in direct competition with the Mustang, so designers of the first all-new model since 1979 were in competition more with their predecessors than with other brands.

So when you look at the 2005 Mustang, you see several generations of the old Mustang, freshly interpreted.

"Heritage is something we embrace," said Ed Golden. "We'd be stupid to think we could divorce ourselves from it."

Golden, 45, is Ford's design director, with responsibility for the Mustang. He was in Orlando last week, accompanied by a concept version of the 2005 Mustang GT convertible, to show the car to local Mustang clubs.

The car is not exactly what the real Mustang will look like when it arrives in a year, but it's 95 percent there.

"The brief on the Mustang was, 'Let's design a vehicle that anyone — anyone, whether they have ties to the automobile business or not — can look at the car, and know immediately that it is a Mustang.'"

"So immediately that eliminated a lot of the sketches we had up on the board that may have been some pretty compelling designs, but if they didn't have the Mustang DNA, they just weren't appropriate."

The Mustang's last major redesign was for the 1994 model year, but even though 1,330 of the car's 1,850 total parts were new, it was still based on the "Fox" platform that underpinned the 1979 model.

That was when the Mustang returned to being a Mustang, instead of the grim Pinto-based Mustang II of 1974-78. Though Ford engineers have done a remarkable job of updating that Fox platform.

So the basis for the 2005 Mustang is a much-modified platform from the Lincoln LS and Jaguar S-Type, also used for the Ford Thunderbird.

It's a solid, versatile front-engine, rear-

wheel-drive structure that can handle a V6 or a V8 engine, both of which will be available in the new Mustang.

And, Golden said, there will be a high-performance SVT Cobra version of the Mustang, likely for the 2006 model year.

Golden likes the Mustang's platform, but "it probably makes for a bigger car than we wanted to have as designers. But when you are making room for a big V8, and we wanted to be able to put big tires and wheels on it, the common theme that grows out of that is 'big.'"

"Plus, it gave us room for a roomier rear-seat package than the outgoing model. So we tried to 'shrink-wrap' the sheet metal on top of that platform the best we could," he said.

The overall length of the Mustang concept convertible is 182 inches, 1.2 inches shorter than the current car. At 74.7 inches, the new car is 1.6 inches wider than the current Mustang.

Golden said the coupe and convertible were designed at the same time, which should result in a very rigid platform for the convertible.

One of the central challenges in de-

signing the new Mustang, Golden said, reminding themselves that while the performance V8 models may be the fun to work on, the Mustang's continued success is due largely to the general mass of the less expensive V6 model, far outsells the V8.

"We, as the designers, really let that as we were going through the development of the car."

"We'd love to have nothing but GTs with big V8s as the only Mustang — as I think you'll see with the production version of the V6 Pony model — we've done a lot of nice things with that car."

When the 2005 Mustang is introduced, expect the V6 and V8 hardtops first, followed closely by the convertible.

Prices have not been set, and won't for months, but it's logical to expect new Mustang to cost more, perhaps 5 percent or so on a comparable V6 to the current car.

The ultimate goal, Golden said, is to keep current Mustang customers, and attract new ones. "And I think we have that will do that."

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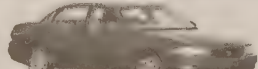


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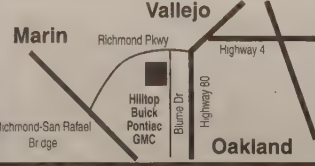
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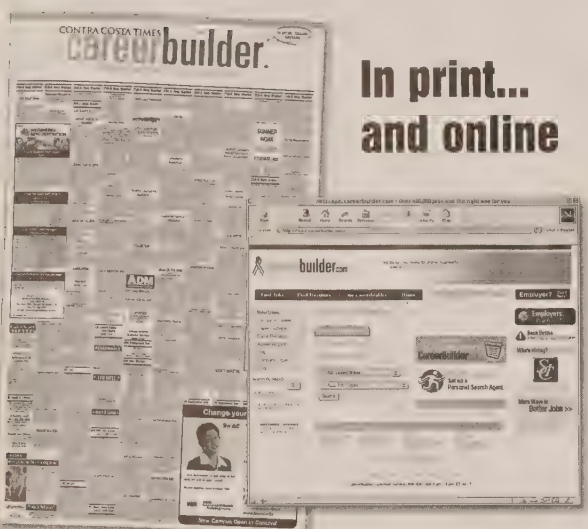
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Friday, September 14, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]

Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable 'Big One'

A Victorian or typical wood building that has its foundations can be laid. A building that sits on the ground can't. It's a lesson that Alameda residents are learning the hard way.

The most common residential construction fault is a weak foundation. It's a problem that can be avoided by building on a solid base. The Alameda Journal is a resource for residents who want to know more about the 'Big One' and how to prepare for it.

Earthquakes happen in California. They will happen again in 1908. San Francisco experienced an earthquake that caused more damage than any other in the state. The quake itself caused buildings and unperforated chimneys to be built to make the 'Big One' a service and deadly.

San Francisco's first school was built in 1851. It was a two-story building that was built on a weak foundation. It was a lesson that Alameda residents are learning the hard way.

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ROSEMARY McNALLY

Alamedans, they are concerned about preserving the Victorian and other older homes. With their construction skills and the Alameda Journal's resources, they can be prepared for the 'Big One' and how to prepare for it.

A recent earthquake in California caused more damage than any other in the state. The quake itself caused buildings and unperforated chimneys to be built to make the 'Big One' a service and deadly.

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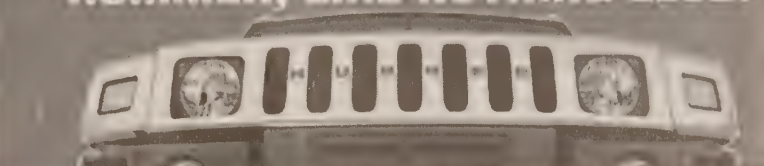
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Achieving a new balance in your life

BY EDWARD M. EVELD AND LISA GUTIERREZ
KNIGHT RIDGER NEWSPAPERS
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A life in balance. What would that look like? People seeking balance in their lives know what it isn't: 12-hour workdays, missed meals, haywire schedules, exhaustion as a way of life. It's also not: grocery trips on the fly, peanut-butter suppers in the mini-van, saying yes when you wish you could say no, no when you want to say yes.

A balanced life is a life that's been examined through your own lens of life values and/or goals — family time, community work, career, to name a few — then re-ordered to reflect those values. Some people come to think about life balance during times of crisis. They've lost a job or grown tired of one, gotten a divorce or have entered those middle years that bring on the question, "Is this all there is?" Others just want sanity, if not serenity. They turn to friends or professionals such as ministers, psychologists, licensed counselors and "life coaches," who help people examine their lives and realign their schedules.

Indeed, defining life balance is an exercise in self-analysis and then making choices, said Christy Donner, a Blue Springs, Mo., life coach. People say they feel trapped, Donner said, "but the truth of the matter is, it's their choice." The stress of work events is prompting people to recognize and try to manage the stress in their personal lives. Life coaches say motivated people can make dramatic life changes but note that they won't, however, attain an absolute or pure balance. It's a continuing process. Here are four personal stories about that process.

Sheri Hubbard
The few moments Sheri Hubbard has for herself are stolen ones. Lock the bathroom door, slip into a hot bath. Ahhhh. Then it's back on the merry-go-round of life for this stay-at-home mom.

Up at 8 a.m., wake the kids. Does everyone have their homework ready? Quick, make lunches. After the school bus pulls away, make beds, vacuum and dust the family's five-bedroom home, plan dinner, run errands. Then Mike, her husband, calls. Can you grab that bag of concrete from the garage and bring it to the work site? As her energy ebbs, the busiest part of her day begins when everyone gets home from work and

school and she feels "like my string is ready to snap." Before she sat down recently at her home with life coach Marilyn O'Hearne, Hubbard said her days felt unbalanced. So much time spent on everyone else, none left for her. Wouldn't her husband like it, she wondered, if for once he didn't come home to find her in her uniform of baggy shirt, sweat pants and no makeup? "I'm at work 24/7, and it never stops," said 29-year-old Hubbard, mother of three grade-schoolers and stepmother of a teen. "I guess I could take time out for myself, but then I'd feel guilty."

What's missing for you, Sheri, O'Hearne said, is the focus on you, which is pretty typical for a mom. At first Hubbard resisted the idea of carving "me" time out of her day because she feared chores piling up. Guilt held her back, too. With gentle prodding, Hubbard ventured that "maybe I could take a couple of hours out in the afternoon. I could do that. Try. Could try."

"Could try doesn't sound very convincing," O'Hearne told her. Maybe I could try it three days a week, Hubbard said. O'Hearne handed her a piece of paper to list things she could do for herself with free time. Hubbard wrote, "shopping, lunch out, yard work."

Still, she worried: What about the work left undone? How much do the children help around the house? O'Hearne asked. None, because it's not their job, Hubbard replied. She feels privileged to stay at home, like her own mother did. Mommy-hood is her career. Yet an epiphany came as she described how much fun she'd had recently doing yard work with her 9-year-old daughter. O'Hearne encouraged her to keep letting the kids help out.

Before leaving, O'Hearne had Hubbard pencil in breaks on her calendar. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Hubbard wrote: "12 to 1 free." "What's different at bedtime, if you've had time for yourself, is you're going to be calmer, more patient, more joyful," O'Hearne said.

Scott Wilson
Once a punctual person, Scott Wilson of Parkville, Mo., noticed about eight months ago he was showing up late for everything. Ten minutes. Fifteen minutes. Twenty minutes. "No matter what I did, no matter how I planned, I was late," Wilson said. It bugged him. Actually, he hated it. But he didn't have to ponder long

to understand it. He had left a well-paid job in the insurance industry to form his own agency. He was in the last throes of a sometimes acrimonious custody battle for his 3-year-old son, Caleb. Becoming a full-time, single dad was new territory at age 44. His income was dropping and his legal bills mounting. Former clients would call for assistance, and Wilson felt obligated to help. Caleb needed to be picked up from school on time, needed fun time with dad in the evening. Planning for his new business got slighted week after week.

He decided to seek help from someone on the outside who could look in. Life coach Christy Donner was a former colleague he trusted, so he turned to her. Through self-analysis tests, he found he's a loyal person who likes to serve others. Good attributes, usually. But they were part of the reason Wilson lost focus on his new business. He was spending too much unpaid time assisting former clients. Donner asked him to set goals at the start of the week, and they would talk on the phone Sunday night to see how he did. It was structure Wilson said he needed. One week he set seven goals. Several were untouched by the end of the week. Donner told him to pare the list to a realistic three or four.

By keeping a careful, hourly tab of how he spent his time, Wilson realized too many intrusions — mostly phone calls — were cutting into time with Caleb between 6 and 8 p.m. Wilson's solution was to declare those hours off-limits. He monitors phone calls, choosing in most cases to let the answering machine do its job.

Wilson also discovered Nintendo matches with Caleb were contributing to his son going to bed late, not to mention crowding out other activities. His solution was to limit Nintendo to weekend play and to slate weekday evenings for playing catch, going for a walk or reading together. Wilson also made changes at work. Answering e-mail was de-

vouring time at work and much of it was unnecessary. He put out the word that he would do limited business via e-mail. Because of a tendency to procrastinate, Wilson decided he would schedule a 9 a.m. appointment as often as possible. That would help him reduce the number of slow-starting work days. Wilson says his life is in much better balance, but it's hardly perfect. For one thing, he'd like to recapture some semblance of a social life.

"I was a workaholic," he admitted. "I worked my fanny off to avoid emotional issues." That will come, Wilson feels certain. He's buoyed by his success toward two goals: making quality time for his son and building a new business. His company opened its doors June 1. And he and Caleb, who turned 4 in January, have found a comfortable routine. Most days Wilson feels solidly in control. "I've discovered a strength I didn't know I had," he said.

Sharon Huffman
Sharon Huffman felt overwhelmed, but for a while she didn't know it showed. "People noticed," Huffman said. They were saying, "You're looking tired all the time." That's because she was tired: handling a full-time job, being mom to her 8-year-old daughter and helping to care for her mother, who had health problems. Add to that a relationship that had blossomed into an engagement. Was there a way to arrange things so life wasn't so chaotic? "It seemed like I was meeting myself at the door," she said. "I thought I needed to find out what was important and cut out the rest." She hooked up with life coach Donner, who told Huffman to come up with her cherished values or life goals, the broad categories of life most important to her. Huffman, 39, found the exercise enlightening. It pointed her in definite directions. Her list began with "security" — everything from financial security to feeling secure about

decision-making. Next she identified "health," a category, in the rush of daily life, she felt she was ignoring. The issue had taken on added importance after her father's death several years ago and her mother's recent health problems. Another was "family." She wanted time for her daughter's activities and for her fiancé. She wanted to be there for her mother. And finally, "enjoyment." As life got busier, it seemed someone had yanked away the fun part. She didn't want to miss the good parts of life. The more she contemplated these ideas the more certain she was of this: "Time is the big thing." Huffman knew her job was taking its toll in time and stress. She spent the day on the phone with mostly unhappy business insurance clients. She had to work, of course. But could she work less and get by with less money? She looked in on the idea that adults did have choices, that they shouldn't settle for feeling trapped.

"I'm choosing to run myself ragged," she thought. "I've got to take control." She asked her supervisors if she could work a reduced schedule. They told her she was a valued employee, and they agreed to a 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. schedule and fewer accounts to handle. The change — a little less stress every day, including avoiding rush hour traffic — made all the difference. "My mother noticed it immediately. She said, 'You're a completely different person.'"

She feels good about being more available to her daughter, Kristen, to her mother and to her fiancé, Vincenzo Cancelli. An avid reader, she gets to pick up a book every once in awhile — and to actually finish it. "I'm a little more available for me, too," Huffman said.

Wanda Johnson
Sometimes, achieving balance in

life doesn't have anything to do with the mundaneness of daily life. Sometimes, as Wanda Johnson discovered, it means properly evaluating one's mission in life. Johnson had just ended a 20-year career as a speaker when she met Marilyn O'Hearne in the 2001.

"I have greater clarity and how I fit into the universe," Johnson said recently from D.C., where she's on the assignment for the EPA. "It's come to the awareness that I'm a speaker when she met Marilyn O'Hearne in the 2001. "I have greater clarity and how I fit into the universe," Johnson said recently from D.C., where she's on the assignment for the EPA. "It's come to the awareness that I'm a speaker when she met Marilyn O'Hearne in the 2001. "I have greater clarity and how I fit into the universe," Johnson said recently from D.C., where she's on the assignment for the EPA. "It's come to the awareness that I'm a speaker when she met Marilyn O'Hearne in the 2001."

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Bourbon-Glazed Salmon a quick and tasty meal

LINDA GASSENHEIMER
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Bourbon glaze gives grilled salmon a smoky oak flavor with a hint of sweetness. No trouble of roasting it on a plank.

Idea comes from Fred Noe, grandson of famed bourbon Jim Beam.

Like my fish to have a little to adding a splash or two of oil is going to wake up some flavors," Noe told me. "Our salmon is aged in charred oak and the salmon takes on body flavor."

For the side dish of rosemary potato and beans, check produce department for fresh beans that are already drained and ready to cook.

It's slightly more expensive, but the time savings is worth the

Helpful hints

- Any type of bourbon can be used.
- The sauce should be kept at a simmer. If it becomes too thick, add a little water; if too thin, cook it for a few minutes after the salmon has been removed.
- Bourbon is available in small bottles called splits.

Countdown

- Start potatoes and beans.
- While potatoes saute, make salmon.
- Finish potatoes.

Fred Tasker's wine suggestion

A fruity pinot noir would be great with this.

BOURBON-GLAZED SALMON

1/4 cup fat-free, low-sodium

chicken broth

1/4 cup bourbon
3 tablespoons tomato paste
3 tablespoons honey
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1/4 pound salmon fillet

Stir together the broth, bourbon,

tomato paste and honey in a

medium skillet on medium-high

heat. When it comes to a simmer,

add the salmon.

Keeping the sauce at a low sim-

mer, cook the salmon 3 minutes;

turn and cook 3 more minutes. The

sauce will cook to a glaze.

Divide salmon between 2 din-

ner plates and spoon glaze on top.

Makes 2 servings.

ROSEMARY GARLIC

POTATOES AND BEANS

3 tablespoons olive oil (divided

use)

1/2 pound new or red potatoes

cut into 1/2-inch cubes

poet? Let me know it

JANE GLENN HAAS
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

It could be worse. An lighthearted verse, at least it is verse without rhyme? It is in store.

When I ask for more

on the passage of time?

that will you send

fore contest's end

luring the days of our prime?

all, once again, I wait with bated

opener for your envelopes.

Your chance to put pen to pa-

per the 21st-century equivalent

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Light Verse Contest. In the

of Ogden Nash, Richard Ar-

den and other great light versifiers,

annual event calls out to you if

an rhyme moon, June, spoon,

and do it in reasonably accu-

rate.

urpose of the contest is to

el, swoon, bemoan, bewail, cele-

brate, castigate the years after 50.

ties are simple: You must be

older to enter. Write pithy po-

ems; Homeric epics are discour-
aged. Avoid the word "geezer," be-
cause the judge (that's me) doesn't
like the word "geezer." Do not rhyme
"Niagara" and "Viagra," because one
year we received 64 entries rhyming
those two words.

Send your poems to: Contest,
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ners receive \$25 Barnes & Noble gift
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(that's me) are final.

You can write about bodily func-
tions if it's in good taste. One year,
an entry was, "It's not the creakin',
it's the leakin'."

You can write about sex, if it's in
good taste. As in:

The question I'm asked:
"Do you still have sex?"

And I never mind to say,

"Being now as we're both sev-

enty-two,

It's only once a day,"

(Eunice White, Rosamond, Calif.)

You can write about new-agey

aging. As in:

I thought that I would never be

So old that I would do tai chi

In groups at dawn in public

places.

With no expression on our faces.

This dance is done by fools like

me.

In hopes of immortality.

(Victor and Virginia Dale, Buena

Park, Calif.)

You can write about age, if you

keep your sense of humor. As in this

verse (sung to the tune of "Are You

Lonesome Tonight?"):

Are you 70 today?

Is your hair turning gray?

Do you feel the years slipping

away?

Do you get aches and pains

Every time that it rains?

Is it hard to hear what people

say?

Does your rocking chair beckon

inside your front door?

Do you find reading newspri-

nt ain't easy no more?

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1/2 pound string beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
2 medium garlic cloves, crushed
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Heat 2 teaspoons oil in a large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Add potatoes.

Saute 10 minutes, tossing several times. Add the beans and garlic and continue to saute 5 minutes, tossing several times.

Remove from heat and add the remaining 1 teaspoon oil, rosemary and salt and pepper to taste. Toss well. Makes 2 servings.

Recipes developed by Linda Gassenheimer for the Miami Herald.



Can you recall today

What you did yesterday?

Happy birthday, you're 70 today.

(Carmela Glenn, Paramus, N.J.)

But most of all, please keep your

wit! (about you, as in this winner by

Dick Kieffer of Liverpool, N.Y.):

A professor named Gary

Gemieckly

Scores sex drive decline most

uniquely.

He says as a man ages

He goes through three stages:

Tri-weekly.

Try-weekly.

Try-weekly.

Jane Glenn Haas is the author of

"Time of Your Life: Why Almost Every-

thing Gets Better After Fifty." She

writes for The Orange County Reg-

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Tips on finding balance

BY EDWARD M. EVELD
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Getting started on life balance

Here are a few self-analysis tools to start your process toward life balance:

1. Make a list of your top eight life values or principles. These can include categories such as home, career, spirituality, fun and adventure, money, health, relationships and personal growth.

2. Draw a circle — your "wheel of life." Divide it into eight sections, each with a label representing your life values. Size the sections to represent the focus and time you spend on each.

3. Now draw a new wheel and re-size the sections to reflect the way you want your life to be ordered.

4. Start a journal to help you think through the changes you want to make and to chronicle your progress. The earliest entries could be a pair of lists suggested by best-selling author Cheryl Richardson: Call the first list "What drains me" and write five things that drain your energy, such as a whiny friend or a cluttered desk.

Call the second list "What fuels me." These are the things that fuel your energy, keep you motivated, such as a supportive sibling or evening walks.

5. In chart form, make a day-to-day schedule to inventory your time over a week. It's important to account for all 24 hours of each day. For example, you might write: Monday — 7 hours sleep, 1 hour grooming, 10 hours work and commute time, 1 hour children's homework, 1 hour television.

You might find some activities

chew up more time than you think. You might find wasted time you can reclaim.

6. Now create a new chart that reflects the way you want each day to go. Block out your personal time first.

7. Choose a person or a small group of friends to regularly talk about "life balance" — this can be done on the phone — and to discuss progress in making changes. They can keep you focused, recognize your roadblocks and help you celebrate successes.

8. Use these self-analysis tools every day as you make decisions about how to spend your time. If a charitable project comes up and your goal is to spend more time on community work, the answer is "yes." If your whiny friend wants to get together during time you scheduled at the gym, the answer is "no."

Here's help for finding balance

Life coaches: Hiring a coach is one option for getting help with life balance. The coaches mentioned in our stories are members of the International Coach Federation, a professional group.

The group's Web site, www.coachfederation.org, offers a referral service.

Coaches meet with clients by phone or in person and often ask for a three-month commitment to work together. Fees vary.

Books by Cheryl Richardson, best-selling lifestyle author: "Take Time for Your Life, A 7-Step Program for Creating the Life You Want," \$13.95 and "Life Makeovers, 52 Practical & Inspiring Ways to Improve Your Life One Week at a Time," \$12.95.

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The (Nearly) Fit Guy: For all that diets promise, exercise usually delivers

BY STEVE DAVID

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

I sometimes make a funny in my writing about humans' ability to learn from their mistakes, about how that separates us from the lesser beasts.

But it's just hyperbole, see. The truth about this is that I really don't know what distinguishes us from four-legged friends, crawling critters, etc. As far as I know, it really is, as one joke goes, our ability to accessorize.

But I do know that it can't be our ability to gain from our mistakes — because we really don't. Let's say you have a doggie, and feisty little Fido wanders out into the street where he loses a dust-up with a four-wheeled beast. Let's just say little Fido survives

this ill-fated challenge, but needs a little time in the doggie hospital to recover and emerges one little doggie leg lighter.

You rename him "Tripod." Well, the guess here is that little Tripod will never, ever get near that mean ol' street again. See, the dog learns from its mistakes.

But humans don't. I read a teaser to a story about something called the South Beach diet.

Oh, my. For me, the word "diet" is like a nightstick to the noggin. "Why, oh why," I immediately think, as the headache commences, "do we continually dip into the dieting well of failure and despair?"

Now, I'm not criticizing this particular plan because, frankly, I know

nothing about it. It may well be a smooth entrance ramp to the highway of shiny, happy health.

It's just that sometimes the ubiquitous dieting menace gets exhausting. A cloud of gloom and despair falls over The (Nearly) Fit Guy at every ambush of the newest diet revolution. For me, these fad diets of the moment are like vampires — they absolutely suck the life right out of me.

(Note to self: Check into hiring that chubby, fastidious man.com blue hero to hang around and smite any evil, deflating diet talk before it becomes personally hazardous.)

How about this: Every time you see the word "diet," you try to think "exercise." Don't just eschew the Biggy Fries; get out and bend it like

Beckham. Or get out and do something.

I'm not saying that exercise allows carte blanche on the food front. No amount of exercise will help if you're constantly setting personal records at the Go For It Buffet and Bar.

One more time: Mostly, it's all about activity and variety and moderation in eating.

I hate to be all preachy and get up in people's grilles about this stuff. But in my book, the definition of "diet" may as well be "A hopelessly flawed plan for the easy way out."

Generally speaking, it's a one-word fix designed to combat weeks or months or years of poor eating or unhealthy habits with a few days or weeks of some tricked-up diet

etary dash for quick cash.

Another big problem: Too often when I see the word "diet," unless it's being used interchangeably with words such as "healthy eating," then it's usually not far from its more insidious, often capitalized cousins, other words that I abhor, such as phentermine or Xenical or any of the other versions of flushing fat through better chemistry. I called up a Web site that details some 47 weight-loss or dieting books, most of them of fairly recently published. Some, at least, seemed more sensible, edging toward the "healthy eating" side of the weight-loss continuum, but 47 of them? Can any of them really be that different?

One is a "tell-all dieting e-book that reveals weight loss secrets you

were never intended to know. It balances the most current strategies with cutting-edge loss techniques used by builders, and combines practicality to provide a solution!"

Secrets? Cutting-edge loss techniques?

What is this, Jethro Double-Knot Spy and Detective? So, say it again, also fail."

"Healthy lifestyles" Suffice it to say, if you think more about being as their relative age and lows, and less about how pounds quickly via the dieting gambit, The Big Guy would lead a less life.

How to look better up front — curb appeal

BY KIM HONE MC-MAHAN

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

AKRON, Ohio — Most of us have a favorite house that we enjoy driving past. It's the kind of home that's so inviting we long to take a peek behind the freshly painted front door. The owners have paid special attention to things like lighting, flower beds and squeaky-clean windows.

The home has curb appeal. While it's a trendy expression, the term has been around a long time in the real estate business. It's used to describe the initial impression when approaching a property for the first time. Folks like Sue Prieto, manager of Realty One in Green, Ohio, say first impressions count.

"You know the old saying 'never judge a book by its cover'? Unfortunately, with a house — we do," Prieto said. "Many people will drive by a house (that's for sale), but won't go inside if it just doesn't look right on the outside."

Whether you're thinking of placing your house on the market, or planning to pass it on to your children as part of their inheritance, you naturally want your home to look its best. To help snazz up your home's curb appeal, here are a few tips from local experts.

A welcoming entry: "The front door is the invitation to your home," said Stow, Ohio, architect, John D. Toomey.

Try a fresh coat of paint or additional trim work around the door. You can even accent the entry with period lighting. For example, if you

have a colonial home, consider carriage lamps.

There's a multitude of new doors available including those with beveled glass, others that are embossed, and dozens that are energy efficient — yet attractive. Toomey suggests going to your local home-improvement store and viewing doors on display.

Remember, Toomey said: "The front door is the expression of the person who lives within."

■ Spruce up the grounds: Trim shrubs so that doors and windows aren't hidden, add a little color with flowers and don't forget the trees.

Large lots with wide frontages require large growing trees that when located correctly will frame the house — similar to a frame surrounding a painting, said Tom Dayton, of Dayton Nurseries Inc. in Norton, Ohio.

"Small trees, such as the eastern redbud, flowering crab apples and dogwoods, among others, irradiate an otherwise boring yard

with a rainbow of colors in the springtime."

■ Paint: Power washing will help clean off some of the winter crud. Remember, peeling paint is a real turnoff so take care of the cosmetics.

If you're thinking of painting your entire house and know what shade you want, Cheryl Zajackowski, decorative product specialist at Sherwin Williams, said almost any color and design consultant can help match the paint. Don't forget the garage doors. That's an area people often overlook. As far as paint colors, traditional shades such as off white or light grays are always a safe bet. Trendy colors, Zajackowski said, will begin to lose their popularity after about two years.

Bright sun can fade out some exterior colors, particularly paint that has red or yellow in it. Still, Zajackowski said, there's some fairly new paint that has been reformulated to withstand bright sunlight. Ask about it when you visit the paint store.

People are spending lots of time on their porches and decks — and if they face the street and are in need of care, it can make the entire house look bad.

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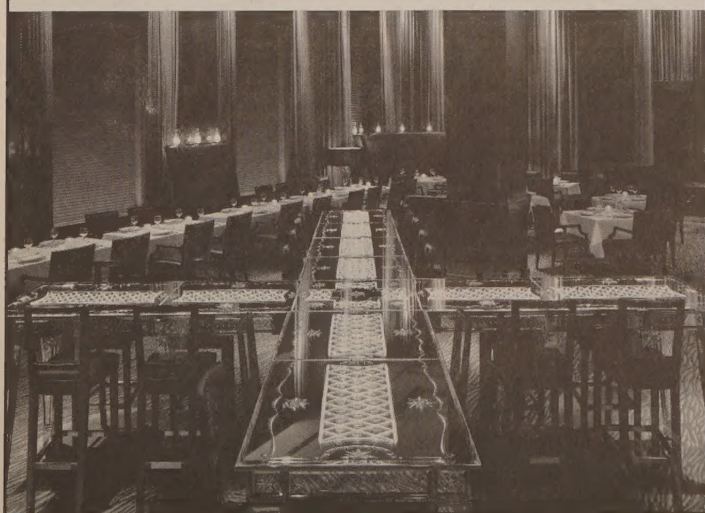
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